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Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, several of the King's

advisors, the imam of the Royal Court and the Taffield

governor. The King and the guests performed Al Maghreb

Volume 19 Number 5850

AMMAN TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1995, RAMADAN 21, 1415

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Media team heads for Bahrain

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Jordanian official mass media Bahrain in response to an invitation by Bahraini Information Minister Tareq Al Mu'ayyad. The delegation is headed by Information Ministry Secretary General Nayef Maula and includes as members Radio Jordan Director Hashem Khreisat and the Jordan News agency, Petra, director general, Abdullah Utoum. The delegation will meet during its several-day visit with Bahraini officials for talks on means of boosting and bolstering bilateral cooperation in media-related fields.

Top French cop resigns

PARIS (AFP) - A top French police official, Jacques Franquet, resigned on Monday after an aide to Prime Minister and presidential candidate Edouard Balladur accused police of lying in order to gain permission to carry out a controversial wire-tap. Mr. Franquet, director of criminal investigations, offered his resignation to Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, the interior ministry said in a communique. Mr. Pasqua cut short a presidential campaign meeting in Marseille, southern France, to return to Paris for a meeting with Mr. Franquet.

Sudan to hold elections in Halaib

KHARTOUM (AP) -Sudan will hold elections in a disputed border area in a move likely to inflame tensions with Egypt. The region, known as Halaib, is a triangular patch of desert bordering the Red Sea. Under an 1899 treaty, the land was incorporated into Egypt. But three years later, Egypt gave Sudan administrative powers, and both now claim it. The area is largely populated by Sudanese nomads. Sudan has registered voters in Halaib in preparation for the elections. which are to take place over several months, said Abdul Moneim Al Zain, president of the general elections

GIA claims it killed intellectuals

ALGIERS (AFP) - Alger ia's radical Islamic Armed Group claims in its latest weekly news bulletin that it is responsible for the killing of several Algerian cultural figures and six Tunisian police officers, the daily Tribune reported here Monday. The paper said that in the bulletin called Al Ansar and oublished Friday, the GIA claims responsibility for last week's slaying of Azeddine Medjoubi, the director of the Algerian National Theatre. of Abdul Hafid Said, a student leader, and of Nabila Djahnine, the head of a feminist organisation.

Verdicts in Mahfouz case approved

CAIRO (AP) - President Hosni Mubarak has approved the death sentences against two extremists convicted of attempting to assassinate Nobel prize-winning author Naguib Mahfouz. A military court ruled last month that the two men were guilty of carrying out a stabbing attack on Mr. Mahfouz and sentenced them to death. In extremist cases, there is no appeal to a higher court. Now that Mr. Mubarak has approved the sentences, the defendants have 15 days to seek clemency from him. Mr. Mubarak has so far rejected all such appeals.

U.S. helicopter crashes off Somalia

manama (R) — a u.s. marine helicopter crashed while on a training mission off the coast of Somalia on Sunday and one person is still on Monday. The Gulf-based U.S. Naval Forces Central Command said in a statement that four people were rescued when the single-engined UH-1N crashed in the Indian

PLO leadership meets Jordanian official mass media Monday left Amman for Rehysin in masses in today on peace process

Arafat reiterates commitment to talks; Israel says 'Jenin first' alive

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has called an urgent meeting of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) executive body which could decide to suspend talks with Israel and risk shattering the peace process, a PLO official said Monday.

"All the options are open at Tuesday's meeting in Cairo ... including the suspension of the negotations," the committee's secretary Jamal Al Surani, told AFP.

"If anyone thinks the Palestinians have no trump cards left, they are making a mistake because the suspension of the negotiations could have the effect of an atomic bomb on the whole peace process." he warned.

But Mr. Arafat said after talks with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe in Paris that the peace process was not dead and that Tuesday's meeting was to "discuss and evaluate the situation over-

"We are committed to the peace process, but we have arrived at an impasse," he said. Asked whether the peace process was dead he

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt said Monday it was making progress with Israel in set-

tling a crisis over the renewal

of the nuclear Non-

Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Foreign Minister Amr

Musa said: "Intensive discus-

sions and contacts are under-

way and there are proposals

(to resolve the dispute), and

it's certain that things are

Mr. Musa, who met his

Israeli officials said earlier

that Mr. Peres has been in-

vited to Cairo "very soon" by

Egyptian President Hosni

Mubarak to try to find a

formula to resolve the worst

crisis in relations between the

two countries since Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Mr. Mubarak has rallied

Arab countries to back his

stand that Egypt will refuse

BAGHDAD (AFP) — U.N.

disarmament chief Rolf

Ekeus met Iraqi officials here

Monday in a bid to speed up Baghdad's compliance with

U.N. resolutions on eliminat-

ing weapons of mass destruc-

Ekeus said the Iragis were

proving "very cooperative"

on providing the United Na-

tions with information on its

weapons programme — a

U.N. criticism in the past.

"I think there was agree-ment on what should be

achieved," was all Mr. Ekeus

would say after talks, which

began here Sunday. Mr. Ekeus, the head of the

U.N. Special Commission

(UNSCOM) on disarming

Iraq, visited the commission's

Baghdad centre for long-term

monitoring of military sites

which he set up during his last

He was holding two rounds

of talks Monday with the

head of Iraq's Military Indus-

trialisation Organisation,

General Amer Mohammad

Rashid, whom he first met on

Political talks would start

on Tuesday, said Mr. Ekeus.

without specifying whom he

visit here in October.

Sunday.

A spokesman for Mr.

moving now."

replied simply, "No."
Israeli officials said that Mr. Arafat had not dismissed their offer to run the West Bank town of Jenin and. perhaps other cities while Israeli troops maintained a

Israel Radio on Monday quoted Mr. Arafat as saying in Paris he was willing to consider the idea if Israel gave him control of West Bank towns in addition to Jenin and if a timetable for eventual troop withdrawal

from all towns was agreed on. However, a senior Palestinian negotiator said Monday the Palestinians rejected the

"We're not going to take over any cities while Israeli soldiers remain, even if we are given guarantees and timetables by the Israelis for a troop withdrawal," Ahmad Qoureia, the Palestinian economy minister, told the Associated Press.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin made the "Jenin first" offer to Mr. Arafat last week in hopes of breaking the deadlock in the talks on expanding Palestinian self-rule to the West Bank. Mr. Arafat

Egypt and Israel make

progress on settling row

to sign the treaty when it

comes up for renewal in mid-

April unless Israel joins. And

Israel steadfastly refuses to

position remained un-

changed. Cairo was "con-

cerned by the Israeli nuclear

However, one Israeli fore-

ign ministry official said Monday: "Egypt knows full

well that we will not sign."

allegations by Prime Minister

Yitzhak Rabin last week that

Egypt tried to influence Tan-

zania, Comoros and Djibouti

not to establish ties with

able information that they

are... trying to convince them

to withhold the establishment

of diplomatic ties with us,"

he said. "There was a direct

Ekeus: Iraq is cooperative

Mr. Ekeus has said he

wants Iraq to comply more quickly with key parts of U.N. Resolution 687, which

set ceasefire terms in the 1991

Gulf war, after a U.S.-led

multinational coalition drove

Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

The resolution provides for

lifting of the oil embargo.

imposed along with other

sanctions after Iraq's invasion

of Kuwait in August 1990, once the United Nations is

assured Baghdad's weapons

of mass destruction have

Iraq says it has complied

Unlike past visits when Mr.

with U.N. demands on dis-

Ekeus was bitterly de-

nounced, the Iraqi press has

made little comment on the

But an Iraqi official on

Monday strongly denied a

British newspaper report that

Iraq was hiding missiles and

biological weapons from

Abdul Razak Al Hashimi,

head of foreign relations for

the ruling Baath Party, said

the Sunday Times report was

"Articles spreading disin-

"certainly entirely false."

latest U.N. mission.

been eliminated.

"We have extremely reli-

The Jewish state has never

programme," he said.

Mr. Musa said Egypt's

and the West Bank town of

Under the Israel-PLO accord, troops were to have pulled out of West Bank towns by last July, Mr. Rabin delayed withdrawal after a series of attacks by militants designed to derail the peace

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who met with the PLO leader in Paris over the weekend, was quoted as tell-ing Israel's cabinet that Mr. Arafat had not rejected the Israeli offer and that he would give a final answer

Mr. Arafat told Mr. Peres he wanted administrative control over other West Bank towns in addition to Jenin, according to the Yedioth Ahronoth daily.

Israeli government spokesman Uri Dromi suggested Monday that a step-by-step approach was the only way forward.

"We start with what's feasible and move to what's desirable. We start with Jenin because there are no settle-

(Continued on page 7)

Egyptian approach to the loc-

week denied the charges.

President Mubarak last

"Peres will go to Cairo

very soon," the official told

reporters, but did not name a

date. "They misunderstand

many things that we say and

do. What we have to do is try

to close this gap of misunder-

The official disclosed that

"They declined. They want

Dimona," he said, referring

to Israel's top-secret reactor

in the south where it is widely

believed to produce nuclear

Asked what other propos-

als Israel might make, the

official said: "I cannot talk

about the compromise be-

cause it is being negotiated

formation about Iraq always come before the U.N. Secur-

ity Council reviews sanc-

tions," Mr. Hashimi said in

In December, Mr. Ekeus said in a report that Baghdad

had made significant progress

in meeting U.N. disarma-ment conditions, but said Ira-

qi leaders had also tried to

hide information on their

past biological and chemical

progress. It is too slow... I

think we should try to go

more quickly" in the talks

with the Iraqis, he told repor-ters who had asked about the

lack of information on

He is leading a large de-

legation with experts in va-

rious fields, including Russian Nikita Smidovich, who

has headed several missions

to investigate Iraqi ballistic

MI. LKEUS is to present an

oral report to the U.N.

Security Council which is to

review the sanctions at its

two-monthly session in

March. In April he will send

a written report to the body. I

weapons on Sunday.

weapons in the past.

"We had some steady

weapons programme.

Egypt had rejected the Israeli

al authorities."

standing."

Controversy over opposition visit to Syria appears to be resolved

All parties agree to abide by and respect law

By Sa'eda Kilani Special to the Jordan Times

Governorate. The bar

KING HOSTS IFTAR: His Majesty King Hussein on Monday hosted an iftar in honour of tribal leaders and representa-

tives of private and public sector institutions in Tafileh

Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid

equet was attended by His Royal

AMMAN - A tussle between the government and eight opposition groups, which sent a joint delega-tion on a controversial visit to Syria last month, appeared to have been settled after the minister of interior met with representatives of the 23 registered political parties. During the meeting it was agreed that the law governing political organisations in the country should be fully respected by every-

Spokesmen for the opposition groups which were in the team that visited Syria said they explained to the minister that during the visit they only repeated their declared position, which is opposed to the peace treaty with Israel, but did not attack Jordan while making the

"The minister accepted

The minister was not available for comment on Monday, but he had indicated in a statement after the Sunday meeting that the government would not pursue the issue.

"We have clarified our stand at the Ministry of Interior that we will take the appropriate legal steps if violations occurred in the future." Salameh Hammad was quoted as saying by Al Dustour daily. Eleven members of eight

political parties were reprethat visited Damascus in late January upon the invitation of the central leadership of the Progressive National Front.

The visit, heavily criticised by mainstream Jordanian politicians, was "only intended to join efforts of two parties who meet on common ground," said Dr.

Tayseer Zibri, secretary eneral of the Jordanian Democratic Popular Party, parties agree on the principle of peace with Israel they oppose the Sept. 13 Oslo accord and the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, he

prayers together (Petra photo)

According to Dr. Zayadin, the Jordan-Israeli treaty lacks fundamental elements. "It does not restore to us our full rights in water. It gives the right to the Israelis to use our lands... our fertile lands, and launches a partnership agreement that was not even signed with an Arab

country." ilaterally," Dr. Zayadin

Dr. Zayadin said the timing and the manner in which the treaty was signed brought along "lots of dis-

appointments. Not only was it done hastily and unilaterally but also it fell short of fulfilling the people's aspirations and ambitions," he asserted. "Even the government's promises and assurances that the treaty will bring economic

said he implied the government had some information that the invited Jordanian party leaders had tried to harm the Jordanian gov-

"All of the information they obtained was false. We didn't insult or try to harm the Jordanian government in any way," said Dr. Zayadin. "What we said in Syria is not new. We have already said it several times in Jordan."

"The insults were directed at Israel and not at

But the secretary general of the mainstream Al And Party, Abdul Hadi Al Majali, asked the minister during Sunday's meeting to enforce article 21 of the 1993 Political Parties Law that prohibits any relations with non-Jordanian parties or

organisations.
"We are afraid if these violations continue they will influence the political parties process in the King-dom," Mr. Majali said.

Mr. Majali called on the eight parties to issue a statement explaining their position "to put an end to all of the controversies

(Continued on page 7)

Israeli counterpart Shimon proposal to offer Egyptian confirmed or denied reports Peres in Paris at the said the meeting with the Syrians dealt with the basic experts a "guided tour" of our explanation and we beprosperity proved to be false," he said. Mr. Hammad stopped that it possesses around 200 weekend, said Israel had in-Israel's nuclear reactor at lieve 'the hatchet is now vited Egyptian experts to visit nuclear warheads. Nahal Sorek, near Tel Aviv, buried,' said Ya'coub principles that the Jorda-An Israeli government offi-Israeli nuclear plants. Zayadin, secretary general nian opposition and Syria short of commenting on or criticising the visit. Particiwhich is open to international cial accused Egypt of laun-"Such proposals are on the agree on. While the eight of the Jordanian Communtable but I don't want to go into details," he said. ching an "all-out war" over pants in Sunday's meeting the dispute. He reiterated

Tal: Israelis do not own land in Jordan

Opposition coalition pushes against repeal of laws

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The government on Monday categorically rejected allegations that Israelis owned land in Jordan.

The denial by Justice Minister Hisham Al Tal came as a coalition of 11 opposition groups called on Parliament to reject a government-proposed repeal of three laws that call for the boycott of all dealings with Israel and pro-hibit the sale of land to Israelis.

There is nowhere in Jordanian records any land owned by Israel or Israelis" in Jordan, Mr. Tal told the Jordan Times, noting that approval by the Council of Ministers was essential for any sale of Jordanian land to any non-Jordanian to become legally binding.

Mr. Tai was commenting on press reports that said that Israelis owned "large plots of Jordanian land" in the south and north and the ownership was recorded in Jordanian registers. The Kingdom's laws per-

mit foreigners to buy land within municipal bound-. aries with cabinet approval and forbid the sale of farmlands to non-Jordanians. Mr. Tal's comments also came amid unsourced reports in the weeklies of

some political parties -

which oppose the Oct. 26 Jordan-Israel peace treaty that Israelis were flocking to places like Madaba and other areas to buy Jordanian land. None of the reports, however, cited specific details of any of the purported transactions.

The call meanwhile on Parliament to reject the repeal of laws was the latest move by the Jordanian Opponents of the Middle East peace process who have vowed to fight "normalisation" of Jordanian-Israeli relations under the peace treaty.

His Majesty King Hussein reiterated this week that Jordan was fully committed to abiding by the provisions of the treaty and was determined to implement its provisions, which include normal relations

Mr. Tal noted that Jordan was "obliged under the treaty to repeal the laws that contradict the state of peace with Israel."

Mr. Tal said the government was proposing that the three laws — a 1973 law that prohibits the sale of estate to Israelis, a 1958 law that calls for the total economic boycott of Israel and a 1953 law that forbids trade with Israel be repealed. These three laws specify Israel by

In addition, the govern-



Hisham Al Tal

draft law that will empower the Council of Ministers to define any party/country as an enemy of the state, Mr. Tal told the Jordan Times.

This law would supercede any Jordanian legislation that bans dealing with Israel at any level, economic, political or cultural, and cites Israel by name or otherwise as an enemy of the state.

Mr. Tal noted that the 1973 law against the sale of land to Israelis was aimed at discouraging Palestinians in the West Bank from selling land to Israelis. Since Jordan severed its legal and administrative links with the West Bank in 1988, the law has been redundant and no longer has any meaning, the minister pointed out. The two other laws also cite Israel by name and, as such, need to be abrogated in the spirit of peace be-

tween the two countries. Officials and observers note that the repeal of the laws is also a prerequisite for launching joint projects and reaping the economic benefits of peace.

It was not known when Parliament, which starts its annual summer recess on Tuesday and which could be called for an extraordinary session in May/June, would take up the prop-

osed motion. However, it is widely expected that the motion would be approved by the 80-seat Lower House of Parliament where proponents of the peace treaty hold a majority. The treaty itself was approved with a 55-23 vote in the House in

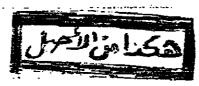
November. The opposition coalition, made up mostly of Islamists and leftist groups as well as pan-Arab parties, made its call on Parliament to reject the government motion in a message addressed to the speaker and members of the House, where the opposition roughly equals the same number of votes cast against the treaty.

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المنتوا

(Continued on page 7)

The abrogation of the



BAGHDAD (AFP) — British businessmen said Sunday they would report to their government about a landmark trip to Baghdad and voiced sympathy for the Iraqi zeople hit by the crippling U.N. sanctions which are backed by London.

A spokesman for the delegation, Edmund Sykes, said the Iragis have said to us that whoever can help them today will get a plus" in future ties between the two countries and promised to and ways to supply huma-⊐itarian aid.

But he could not promise low his mission would affect he British government, which along with the United States, is the fiercest opponent to lifting the sanctions imposed after the 1990 invaion of Kuwait.

"We are purely an industry body, we are not backed by the British government. My report will go to the government. If they wish to take notice of it they will, if they con't they won't there is nothing I can do about it," he

The group of representatives from 27 British comvanies are on the first trip to Iraq since the 1990-1991 Gulf

It was organised amid great secrecy and has been sanctioned by the British govern-

Relations have been cut since the January-February 1991 Gulf war in which Britain took part in the U.S.-led coalition which routed Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

"My impression is that the Iraqi people are being hurt very much by the sanctions." Mr. Sykes said.

poses of the trip was to look at providing aid as well as to renew an "old friendship which exists between our two countries.

"We must see whether there is any way either through the release of locked funds or through future trade that we can supply today the food and medicine that is so evidently needed in this country," Mr. Sykes told reporters.

Food and medicine are ex-empt from the sanctions. But he said "in business it is not possible to supply too much without payment."

The delegation represent ing industry, food processing, pharmaceuticals, water distribution and road construction held talks Sunday with Iraqi officials about supplying

They met Health Minister Umid Medhat Mubarak here Sunday following talks Saturday with foreign and oil

ninistry officials.
"I believe (the Iraqis) are very keen to resume trade with Britain, as British industry is keen to resume trade with Iraq," said Mr. Sykes, spokesman for the Iraqi-British Interests Group set up two years ago.

According to figures published here, British-Iraqi commercial exchanges totalled £600 million (\$950 million) before the invasion of Kuwait.

Russian, French and Itahian companies have led the rush to set up deals with Iraq, notably in the oil sector. Spanish and Jordanian nessmen were also expioring trade and other prospects at the weekend.

Libya said to seek stake in Lonrho conglomerate

LONDON (R) - British tycoon Tony Rowland said on Sunday Libya wanted to buy a 10 per cent stake in Lonrho Plc, the mining to hotel group, but that the con-troversial bid made no sense in the face of international sanctions. Libya has been an econo-

mic outcast since the United Nations imposed sanctions in response to the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland.

But now, reports have emerged that Libya's foreign investment agency wants to buy into Lonrho, in which Mr. Rowland holds a small stake. As well as mining and notels, Lonrho also has refin-

fence Minister Francois

Leotard made unusually

strong attacks on Iran, Iran,

Libya and Syria at a confer-

ence on Sunday on peace in

the Mediterranean, saying

the first three were most re-

sponsible for regional insta-

hold over Lebanon, compar-

ing it to the control exercised

over unempowered minors. Mr. Leotard began in a

back-handed fashion when he

said it was unfortunate the

Arab-Israeli peace process

was dominated by the United

"It is also unfortunate the

process does not include a

certain amount of countries

who are those mostly re-

sponsible for the region's in-

stability — Libya, Iraq and

seeking weapons of mass des-

Tel: 773111-19

"They are characterised by

Iran," he said.

States rather than Europe.

He rebuked Syria for its

ing, agricultural and general

trading interests.

Although Mr. Rowland called the Libyan plan genuine, the flamboyant executive told Reuters he had no intention of selling his six per cent share in the global conglomerate. 'It (the proposal) is no

doubt genuine," said the Lonrho board director, who recently returned from a visit

But any Libyan shareholding would be of limited value as it would carry no voting rights due to the sanctions, he added.

"It just did not make sense," Mr. Rowland said.

ing capacities."

marines.



RABBI LAID TO REST: Ultra orthodox Jews carrying the body of 85-year-old Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Auberbach during a large funeral of one of Israel's best known Talmodic leader. Rabbi Auberbach died from a heart

attack. Israel radio called it the biggest funeral the country had ever seen as black clad masses of orthodox Jews flocked the hillside of Givat Shaul cemetery (AFP photo)

Social Democrats resign from Turkish cabinet

ministers in Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's coalition government submitted their resignations Monday following the merger of their party with Turkey's main opposition

The decision was taken at a final meeting of the 12 ministers from the People's Social Democratic Party (SHP). which merged into the opposition People's Republican Party (CHP) on Saturday, party officials said. They said Vice Premier

Murat Karayalcin, who is also foreign minister, would present the resignations to the new leader of the CHP, former SHP Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin. Mr. Cetin said over the

weekend that the former Social Democratic deputies would not seek to bring down the Ciller government and negotiations are expected to begin later this week on whether the realigned CHP will join in a new coalition cabinet with Ms. Ciller's right-wing True Path Party.
All 12 outgoing ministers

were expected to remain in their jobs pending the outcome of the negotiations.

The Social Democrat-True Path coalition was formed in November 1991 and reconfirmed after Ms. Ciller was

ANKARA (Agencies) — elected True Path leader in The 12 social democratic June 1993.

Mr. Cetin, who was replaced as foreign minister in July, defined his major political aim at the weekend as the creation of a unified and strong centre-left in Turkish politics.

As foreign minister, Mr. Cetin is credited with having established good links with Turkic former Soviet republics, and also winning German and French support for a ban on the outlawed separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). In particular, he has consis-

tently spoken of the need to distinguish between "PKK terrorists" and the issue of Kurdish identity, which he insists is "recognised in Turkey," despite European fears Ankara is violating the rights of its Kurds. The merger comes with the

government under attack for its economic policies amid a recession and could destablise the coalition. The SHP and CHP decided

to join forces last September in a bid to stop popular supshowing in municipal elections last March.

Although some political analysts argued that the latest developments required the government's resignation. Ms. Ciller and Mr. Cetin

Cyprus trial of 3 Britons adjourned

LARNACA (AP) — The trial of three British soldiers accused of murdering a Danish woman was postponed again Monday.

The three-member Assize court rescheduled the trial for March 2, when defence lawyers are expected to press for the dismissal of the case and the release of the defendants. The defence claims that the

confiscation by a prison guard of confidential notes two of the defendants had prepared for their lawyers was illegal. George Nicolaou, the pres-

ident of the Assize court, said Monday the defence's objection was unprecedented in Cyprus. He said he had to adjourn to give the defence and the prosecution more time to consult on the procedure to be followed in hearing the unique objection.

The men were arrested

Sept. 13 and charged with killing Louise Jensen, 23, a tour guide of Hirthals, northern Denmark, after kidnapping her in the tourist resort of Ayia Napa. The soldiers are privates

Alan Ford, 26, of Birmingham; Justin Fowler, 26, of Falmouth, Cornwall; and Jeff Parnell, 23, of Oldbury, West Midlands. Even though this was their

17th appearance in court since their arrest in September, the trio has yet to enter pleas to charges of manslaughter. This has been delayed by a

series of legal objections and complications referred to the supreme court which ruled last week that the case can proceed.

Police said the three have admitted kidnapping and killing Ms. Jensen, whose battered body was found buried in a shallow grave two days after her abduction. When arrested at a police

roadblock hours after Ms. Jensen's boyfriend reported her abduction, the soldiers had bloodstains on their clothes. A blood-covered shovel was found in their car. All three serve with the Roayl Greenjackets Regiment at the British sovereign

dock Monday, listening to legal arguments in Greek. which were translated into English for their benefit.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Qatari ship with sugar arrives in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) - A Qatari_ship loaded with 2,500 tonnes of sugar arrived in Umm Qast on Sunday, the first boat from a Gulf Arab country to dock in an Iraqi portsince U.N. sanctions were imposed in August 1990. The official agency INA said the boat had anchored in Umm Oasr. 600 kilometres southeast of Baghdad. The gift was to "relieve the human tragedy of the Iraqi people," Qatar's news agency QNA said Thursday when the ship Zarqa left. the port of Doha. Oil and trade sanctions were imposed by the U.N. Security Council when Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, but do not include food and medicines. Qatar is one of the few Gulf Arab monarchies to still have good relations with Iraq. A Sudanese ship which arrived in May. 1994 in Basra was the first Arab boat to dock at an Iraqi port since the start of the sanctions," INA said.

Prisoners ask for more food for Ramadan

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) - More than 1,000 people awaiting deportation here demanded better meals for the Holy Month of Ramadan saying in a letter Sunday that they were going hungry. In a letter to the Al Seyasseh daily, the prisoners held at the Talha deportation centre in Julaib Al Sheiuok in the north of the Kuwait City, said they were getting one date a day, with some lentil soup and beans cooked in camphor oil. Many of them were suffering from malnutrition, and they called on charity groups to provide better meals during the month of dawn-to-dusk fasting which ends in early March. The letter added that at least 1,200 detainees were being held at the centre. Earlier this month Deputy Ali Al Bagli said more than 535 detainees of several nationalities were being held at the centre. In 1994 the government deported 122 Iraqis and nationals of countries which supported Iraq in the January-February 1991 Gulf war mainly Yemenis and Jordanians, a U.S. State Department human rights report said earlier this month. Kuwait also routinely deports Iranians and other foreign nationals who have violated residency requirements or committed other offenses.

6 girls die in Iran fire

NICOSIA (AP) - Six schoolgirls were killed in a fire that broke out Sunday at their school in northwestern Iran, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The agency, monitored in Cyprus, quoted the local police chief in Rasht, 240 kilometres from Tehran, as saying the blaze was caused by a kerosene stove that tipped over. The dead girls were aged between 11 and 12, IRNA added. Some 135 of their schoolmates were saved. Kurdish rebels killed in 2-day clash rises to 51

DIYARBAKIR (AP) — The number of Kurdish guerrillas killed by troops in a two-day offensive in southeastern Turkey rose Sunday to 51, a report said. Turkish troops killed 38 Kurdish rebels Saturday in a clash in the Hani district, a rural area of the Diyarbakir province. Two Turkish soldiers were also killed in the fighting. A further 13 guerrillas were killed in clashes that ended Sunday, said a dispatch from the Anatolia news agency. According to a statement from Interior Minister Nahit Mentese, a total of 167 Kurdish rebels have been killed in battles with Turkish troops since the beginning of 1995. This figure rose to 180 after the latest fighting. There were no figures released on casualties for government forces. Kurdish guerrillas have been fighting for autonomy in southeastern Turkey since 1984. More than 15,000 people have been killed in the

Infiltrators kill Bangladeshi in Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) - A number of Iragis have crossed into Kuwait, killed a Bangladeshi shepherd and stolen his sheep, a newspaper reported Monday. The daily Al Watan said the infiltration occurred Wednesday evening in an area called Bahrat Husban in northern Kuwait. They allegedly shot the shepherd in the back and the chest and made their way across the border taking the sheep with them. The shepherd's body was discovered Thursday. An Interior Ministry spokesman confirmed the report. The spokesman also confirmed another report by the paper that two Kuwaitis have been missed in the border area since Thursday, Ahmad Al Azimi, 17, and Mohammad Al Azimi, 20, gave a relative a ride to his military unit in the border area of Abdali and have never been heard of since. Kuwait has built a three-meter-deep defensive trench along the 210-kilometres border. But it has not stopped people straying into Iraq. The border that was recognised by Baghdad for the first time in November is patrolled by a battalion of armed United Nations peacekeepers.

UAE fund finances over 4,800 marriages

ABU DHABI (AFP) - A fund created by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) government three years ago to finance weddings between nationals has extended around 340 million dirhams (\$92.6 million) for more than 4.800 marriages. The Marriage Fund, in its first report published in local newspapers Monday, said 4,871 native men had benefited from its grants since it was set up in 1992. "This means the fund has enabled 9,742 national men and women to marry," said the report, which was presented to the federal cabinet this week. "The marriages mean the creation of 4.871 new local families, which is an important national accomplishment even if each family produced one child." The fund was set up by President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan with a capital of 80 million dirhams (\$21.8 million) before it was gradually raised to 250 million dirhams (\$68.1 million). It provides loans of up to 70,000 dirhams (\$19,073) for each would-be local bridegroom provided he is single and his bride is also a UAE national. The fund was set up to help locals meet rocketing wedding costs, which can exceed \$100,000, and encourage them to have children as part of attempts to boost the national

(Continued from page 12) intervene to stop the Israeli

"The guns and missiles of

This is a clear message to the international parties who are possoring the peace process. This message should be matered with the appropriate response through internaal institutions." it said. Early Monday the Iranianbacked Hizbollah guerrillas fred anti-tank rockets and scretal artillery rounds at a position of Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in Sojod on the outskirts of the Israeli-occupied zone.

state of "destroying homes n South Lebanon and driving the Lebanese population into randus, to force Lebanon and Syria to give in to its demands in the peace pro-

WHAT'S GOING

FILM * Film (in Arabic) entitled "Fuir Qasem" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 7:00 p.m.

PLAYS

ON

Play (in Arabic) entitled You Are Not Yourself" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 9:00 p.m. Play (in Arabic) entitled The Mask" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00

NEWS

ABC News Highlights and McNeil-Lehrer News floor at the American Center at 2:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of oil paintings by Sabah lbrabim at Al Bayraq Art Gallery, Sports City intersection (Tel. 688701).

Exhibition of handicrafts by Hasmig Kuymjian at the Royal Cultural Centre. Photo exhibition at the Friends of Archaeology

Young America" exhibit with photographs featuring Americans of all ages) the American Centre. Exhibition of works by Qasim Al Samir at the Housing Bank Complex

JORDAN TELEVISION

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Tel. 811295.

PROGRAMME TWO Des Irains Pas Comme Les Austre Profiles of the Muslim World 19:15 19:30 Home improvement Road to Avonica Equinox News in English Feature film: "Watergate

PRAYER TIMES

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St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweitleh, Tcl. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785. 51. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

continues to brandish the speech of Islamic revolution and help terrorism. And I do not forget Iraq's recurrent threat against Israel," he Referring to human rights,

increased numbers of long-

range ballistic missiles and

Iran also purchased sub-

countries can destabilise the

region. I refer to Iran which

"The ambitions of these

Mr. Leotard said: "Don't we see that external agressiveness is proportional to inter-nal violence. Iraq, Iran and Libya are vivid proof of this." On France's role in the 1990 Gulf war to expel Iraqi troops from Kuwait, he said: "France wishes to show there

is no contradiction between

Terrasancia Church Tel: 621366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church Tel.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328.

Corman-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932 Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.

The Evangelical Local Church In

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-

A depression will affect the

Kingdom, making temperatures drop. Rainfall is expected in the

north, extending later in the day to all other regions. Skies will be partly cloudy to cloudy and winds southeasterly. In Aqaba, winds will be southerly moderate and seas

being on Israel's side when it truction... strategic weapons is threatened and defending aimed at making them repeace and justice in and for gional powers with destabilisthe Arab World." He said all three sought On Lebanon, he said both

Leotard slams Iran, Iraq, Libya and Syria

Syria and Israel should withdraw their forces and Syria should cease afterwards to consider Lebanon as "a. minor is seen by law."

"We do not think the international community can accept exceptions to the right of people to dispose of them-selves," he said. "Let's hope Damascus will

understand the best guarantee for its security is not to maintain a more or less shadowy 'Syrian order' over Lebanon but to accept the existence of a democratic, truly independent Lebanon."

Mr. Leotard also said Algeria's destiny should be neither in the hands of monolithic Islamic fundamentalism... or in the hands of (its current) author-

the results of elections. He was speaking at the headquarters of the United

Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) at a conference organised by the French Jewish Radio Shalom with help from France's TF1 television channel and Egypt's Al Ahram newspaper.

itarian regime which ignores

Libva assails NATO

Libya on Sunday accused the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) of having ulterior designs on Mediterranean countries which the military alliance has invited to a meeting in Brussels this week. Libya's official JANA

news agency said that its country's minister for (pan-Arab) unity had told ambassadors from Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia —

with Israel - that the invitation illustrated "the dangers of increased interference in the internal affairs of the Arab Nation. JANA quoted the minister, Jomaa Al Fazzani, as saying: "The invitation con-

the countries invited, along

Hikmet Cetin

opposition

per cent.

reportedly hope to avoid that

by making a major cabinet

shuffle and then asking par-

liament for a vote of confi-

Ms. Ciller is keen on trying

to avoid any political crises

while intense negotiations are

underway with the European

Union to sign a customs union agreement on March 6.

The government also faces

parties for early

growing pressure from

elections because of the

country's growing economic

and political problems, with

annual inflation running 160

war with the autonomy-

seeking PKK guerrillas,

which seriously damages Tur-

key's human rights image.

The army is engaged in a

siders the Israeli enemy as a fundamental element in the Arab region and (Israel) is invited to take part in international meetings dealing with this region's affairs." Libya, shunned by the Western military alliance, opposes Middie East peace moves involving Israel and Arab countries.

Last week, NATO Secretary-General Willy Claes said he would start the alliance's proposed dialogue with the five countries, over threats to stability in the Mediterranean, at a meeting in Brussels next Friday.

base area of Dhekelia in south Cyprus. They sat impassively in the

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Min./Max. temp.	Alguds pharmacy
Amman 6/12 Aqaba 11 / 21 Deserts 4/ 14 Jordan Valley 10 / 19	ZARQA: Dr. Ziyad J'aitim Khalifeh pharmacy
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 17, Agaba 24, Humidity	EMERGENCIE
readings: Amman 24 per cent. Aqaba 35 per cent.	Food Control Centre

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY**

AMMAN: Dr. Ghaleb Zawaideh	50026521532

Dr. Mohammad Al Hilu 279773

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Food Control Centre	
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Jordan Electricity Authority 815615 Company 636381 RJ Flight Information 18-53200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200 HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6 Akilch Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Malhas. J. Amman ... 636140 Paiestine, Shmeisani hmersani Hospital University Hospital Al-Muasher Hospital The Islamic, Abdali Al-Ahlı, Abdalı İtalian, Al-Muhajreen

Queen Alia Hospital 686100 Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323 (09)900560 Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732 Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)900990

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555 Greek Catholic Hospital Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)272275 AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL **AIRPORT** This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information

department at the Oueen Alia In-ternational Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be veri-ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

(Terminal 1) 94:90 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ) 97:30 Damascus (RJ) 07:30 . 09:15 . Adaba (RJ)
Abu Dhabi (RJ) Muscat, Dubai (R1) Doha, Bahrain (R1) 10:15

Other Flights (Terminal 2) Vienna (OS)

Rome (AZ)
Adea (DY)
Beirut (ME) 26:20 23:50 DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ)

08:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ) Montreal, Toronto (RJ) Geneva, Madrid (RJ) 11:55 Vienna, Paris (RJ) 12:09 . 12:30 . .. Leadon (RJ) ... Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ) 12:45 .. Cairo (RJ) . Lamsca (RJ) ... Jeddah (RJ) 20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

(Terminal 1)

22:18

Other Flights (Terminal 2) Damascus, Paris (AF) 10:15 13:59 15:25 ... Vienna (OS) Damascus (A2) Aden (DY)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN m 8:00 every Monday

5:00 p.m. every Monday 7:30 a.m. every Sonday Arc. Amo 5:00 p.m. every Sunday MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg. 700/ 400

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By Rana Husseini the Jo

Home N

Man kills sister t Special to the Jordan Times Acc the b AMMAN - An 18-yearold woman Sunday was commi stabled to death by her said h brother shortly after being "clean

released from prison where she served a six-month sentence for "immoral" behaviour and becoming pregrant out of wedlock, an official source said. Sonia A.M. was stabbed several times in the sto-mach and chest by her brother Mohammad A. who surrendered to police shortly after the killing, the source, who spoke on con-

HOME !

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Crown Prince appoints private secr AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal His

Crown Prince Hassan has appointed Rifai as his private secretary. Mr. Rifai holds a B.A. in political science from Ha University and an M.A. in interna relations from Cambridge University been serving at the Royal Court since Malaysia seeks nurses

AMMAN (Petra) - The Health Mi Monday said it received a request from

government of Malaysia expressing inter

employing Jordanian nurses to we Malaysian hospitals. Candidates must English and have at least three years e New medical scholarship establis AMMAN - The King Hussein M Centre, in cooperation with Hikma

maceuticals, has established the King H

Medical Scholarship for the purpose of

ing young Arab physicians in "one of the

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Israeli planes attack

Israel are not only destroying the houses and properties of the Lebanese people but they are destroying the chances of peace in the Middle East," the Syrian government daily Tahreen said.

Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri accused

the holy the N Conserv sein Fou tion wit tinental Friday)

faSpecial AMMA plan to Americ in Am particip enro] dents w and be ican un and C

AUC), Altho bers as Conncil tion to ching of approve Ahmad general Higher

Jordan This. to a thr tion by allow ti new pri Jordan, rates wi have on The s Univer (AUA) commit

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A Qatari ship loaded in Umm Qasr on Sunday is said the boat had anchord; it southeast of Baghdad. The state of the Iraqi people. southeast of Baghdad Included in aged of the Iraqi people (and Iraqi people (and Iraqi people (and Iraqi when the sanctions with Iraqi when Iraqi myaded (and Iraqi myaded (an released from prison where she served a six-month sentence for "immoral" behaviour and becoming pregnant out of wedlock, an official source said. A Suganese surp which animalist he first Arab boat to dock at a contions." INA said mach and chest by her

or more food for Ramas brother Mohammad A., who surrendered to police shortly after the killing, the AFP: More than 1.00 p.

AFP: More than 1.00 p.

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ate response through international institutions," it said. backed Hizboliah guerrillas fired anti-tank rockets and יים אולו מולים ביים יותר לביים several artillery rounds at a Thursday, Airlin position of Israel's proxy ---- The spoke South Lebanon Army (SLA) -- -- the paper 🚾: militiz in Sojod on the outskirts - the border are s of the Israeli-occupied zone. The printary mates Speaker Nabih Berri accused - ver reen heardols: Israel of "destroying homes in South Lebanon and driving - : Say not stopped ps the Lebanese population into - reer is panokile exodus, to force Lebanon and Syria to give in to its - peacekeepes demands in the peace proes over 4.800 marriage

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MARKET PRICE MAKEL PROPERTY

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☆ "Young America" exhibit Honsing Bank Complex

Man kills sister for 'immoral' behaviour dition of anonymity, told by the Jordan Times Monthson the

According to the source, AMMAN — An 18-yearthe brother confessed to old woman Sunday was committing the crime and stabbed to death by her said he killed his sister to brother shortly after being "cleanse the family hon-

The source said that Sonia was arrested after her brother himself had complained to police of his sister's "morais."

Sonia underwent an abortion, the source said. She was then released from prison after her father signed a guarantee that she would not be harmed, he

day would only confirm the killing and refused to give any further details.

This is the second such "crime of honour" to be reported in Jordan this

On Feb. 1, a woman was shot and killed by her brother in Ajloun for becoming pregnant out of a wedlock. The woman's older sister was also shot but survived. The brother accused the sister of helping to cover up their younger sister's pregnancy.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince appoints private secretary

Sonia A.M. was stabbed

several times in the sto-

Malaysia seeks nurses

MMAN (Petra) — The Health Ministry employing Jordanian nurses to work in region in the fields of cardiology, internal Malaysian hospitals. Candidates must speak medicine, rehabilitation and nephrology. English and have at least three years experi-

New medical scholarship established

MMAN — The King Hussein Medical Centre, in cooperation with Hikma Phar- Jordan Monday signed an agreement on maceuticals, has established the King Hussein holding training courses. Students will be Medical Scholarship for the purpose of train- trained at the centres and the university

attack

(Continued from page 12)

intervene to stop the Israeli

Israel are not only destroying

the houses and properties of

the Lebanese people but they

are destroying the chances of

peace in the Middle East,"

the Syrian government daily

the international parties who

are sponsoring the peace pro-

cess. This message should be

countered with the appropri-

Early Monday the Iranian-

Lebanese Parliament

This is a clear message to

"The guns and missiles of

attacks. .

Tishreen said.

statement said Monday. This year's scholarships were offered to doctors from Sudan AMMAN (J.T.) - His Royal Highness and Yemen. The choice, according to Hikma, Crown Prince Hassan has appointed Samir was made in view of the "high level of skill Rifai as his private secretary. Mr. Rifai, who and dedication of our (Jordanian) physiholds a B.A. in political science from Harvard cians." Thus, the company believes that "it is University and an M.A. in international our responsibility to share our expertise and relations from Cambridge University, has knowledge with young Arab physicians in the been serving at the Royal Court since 1988. region of the Middle East so that they may benefit from our know-how at the formative stage of their medical career." The scholarship will offer the selected candidates a one-year internship programme at the King Monday said it received a request from the Hussein Medical Centre with some of the government of Malaysia expressing interest in most prominent specialised physicians in the

Geographic centre, university sign agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre and the University of ing young Arab physicians in "one of the best alternately in conducting land surveys, car-medical centres in the region," a Hikma tography and other relevant fields.

Israeli planes Ministry to open 6 hospitals

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Health is opening new hospitals in six different areas of Jordan during 1995 located at Karak, Deir Abi Saced, Yajouz, Irbid, Maan and Sahab, and is planning to build others in the central Jordan Valley, Bani Kenaneh district and Wadi Mousa near Petra, according to Minister of Health Aref Batayneh

One such hospital, he said, s being constructed at Ruseifeh and is due to be completed in May. The minister said the Ruseifeh is being built on about 10,000 square metres of land to provide all types of medical ser-

This eight-storey building, added Dr. Batayneh, will cost JD 4.5 million and have outpatient units, emergency sections, a pharmacy, X-ray units, operation theatres, and a dialysis unit along with other necessary facilities.

He said that the Deir Abi Saeed hospital in the Kura

district near Irbid will consists of five floors and is being built on 6,000 square metres The 56-bed hospital, which is also due to be completed

during 1995, is expected to cost JD 5 million, added Dr.

Interfaith group to start Jordan leg of pilgrimage

By Cathy King Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN - An advance team of a four-part interfaith pilgrimage group, who are commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, Monday arrived here from Israel to pray for all those killed during and

of conflict, "We do not carry a political message. Our pilgrimage is to mark the anniversary of the end of World War II and to pray for those, particularly women and children, who suffer in times of war," said Seiji Handa, a Buddhist monk and member of the advance team.

On Dec. 10, 1994 one sector of the Interfaith Pilgrimage for Peace and Life embarked on its designated journey stretching from Poland to Japan. Three other groups are covering the U.S. India and Japan. About 4,500 kilometres of the route will be covered on foot. The group of 65 people range in

age between 17 and 72. Three members of the group have arrived in Amman ahead of the main group to make final arrangements here. The rest of the group,

will cross the King Hussein Bridge on Feb. 22 and will spend the night at a private farm located close to the border crossing point.

A statement by the group says: "In response to all the suffering, misery and affliction caused on earth through war and unchecked human suffering from the hardships greed, we are called to form: an Interfaith Pilgrimage for Peace and Life. We walk to acknowledge and reflect deeply on the history of milit-

> or deprive others of life." The group currently in-cludes men and women from various religious, cultural and social backgrounds and who originate from 15 different countries.

ary expansion and to piedge

never again to enter into war

"We have visas for Jordan, but now we are hoping and waiting for permission to walk our planned route from King Hussein Bridge to Salt (Feb. 23), and then from Salt to Amman (Feb. 24)." Brother Handa told the Jordan Times.

The pilgrimage was initiated and organised by the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist religious order based in Japan. The order of monks is headed by Brother G. Sasamori who is also the leader of the pilgrimage.

Maea Garcia, a journalism student from Chile, said, We walk 25 to 30 kilometres a day, chanting and drum-

ming Buddhist mantras." For half an hour each merning they pray "interfaith" prayers together, taken from the various faiths the group members represent. By about 7:30 a.m. the pilgrims begin their walk which lasts for five to six hours. To participate in the pil-

grimage there are conditions to which participants need to adhere: participation in an interfaith prayer service every morning; the maintenance of physical strength to walk an average 20 miles daily; responsibility for one's own security in areas of conflict; no alcohol and no drugs; the following of guidelines set by regional and local organisers and the coverage of travel and other miscellaneous expenses.
"We have each self-

financed our participation in the pilgrimage. We each pay for the sections of the journey that involve transportation (such as the flight from Athens to Tel Aviv), but on private institutions, religious organisations and individuals for housing and food," Mr. Garcia said.

While the pilgrims are in Jordan and Iraq, where they hope to visit next, they will fast because it is the month of Ramadan, "We respect the customs of different peoples and we try to share and experience their lives. We try to listen to the people we encounter, to gain a better understanding of different countries and cultures," Mr.

The best experiences of sharing peoples lives, he said, were when, at some destinations, the group was divided up into clusters of three or four people and housed separately at different private residences.

Garcia added.

In August, the final stretch between Hiroshima and Nagasaki, where atomic bombs were dropped at the end of the Second World War killing 300,000 people, will conclude nine months of

walking and prayer.

The pilgrimage which began in Auschwitz, Poland has so far passed through the Czech Republic, Austria, Croatia, Bosnia, Greece,

Jordan tomorrow.

From Jordan the remainder of the tour will include Iraq, Pakistan, India, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, the Philippines and Japan.

Osamu Shimoda, a mechanical engineer and the third member of the advance team, has spent much time in Jordan bringing humanitarian aid from Japan. Most of the aid constitutes medicine. milk and food which is taken to Iraq. He also spends two months each year with his wife in Gaza teaching music to deaf children.

We have experienced pessimism among some people during the pilgrimage, but many have reacted emotionally towards us and our message," Mr. Garcia said, adding that he felt that they were succeeding in the spread

of their call for peace. "Peace starts with one's self. We cannot just wait for peace to come to us. We must do something now and quickly," Brother Handa said. The pilgrims hope they will experience assistance support and enthusiasm for their cause from all they meet

Britain assesses change in immigration policies

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Dame Elizabeth Anson, independent monitor of refusals of entry clearance, has concluded a five-day visit to Jordan saying she was satisfied that the system of providing short-term visas for Jordanians wanting to travel to Britain is generally working. She did, however, point out that Iraqi nationals living in Jordan were facing difficul-

ties in obtaining visas. The British embassy in Amman last year received 10,000 visa applications, 90 per cent of which were granted. The majority of the 10 per cent who were refused came from Iraqis, who altogether submitted 2,500 applications out of the 10,000 received.
"The most important

aspect of considering an application is to ensure that the applicant has the intention of coming back, that he has enough money to get to Britain and back, and enough money to support himself Elizabeth said.

Unfortunately, many Iraqi

convince entry clearance application is given full and officers in Amman of this intention, with the result that a great number of them are refused entry to Britain at the

moment. Decisions concerning visa applications from Iraqi nationals are not taken by officers in Amman alone, but in consultation with the authorities in London, where information concerning the person's previous applications, applications by members of his family and possible cases of overstaying visas by him or other members of

his family are gathered. Dame Elizabeth came to Jordan to examine refusals of visa applications by the British embassy in Amman. Appointed by the British parliament, her mission is to establish whether a new short-term visa application system is treating applicants

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Dame Elizabeth said that the British parliament is particularly concerned with the applireception at British embassies and consulates, and

fair consideration. Her function is to relate applicants' reactions to parliament, and to suggest improvements in current procedures.

Following Dame Eli-22beth's first report to parliament in November 1993, special forms were introduced providing an opportunity for the applicant who had been refused a visa to state his immediate reaction to the refusal in writing. Dame Elizabeth has been

investigating a random sam-ple of 1,800 refused visa applications out of a total of 80.000 refusals worldwide annually, with 20-30 of them taken from Jordan.

She has also visited embassies and consulates around the world, and spoken to embassy officials and applicants alike. Her investigations are li-

mited to applications for short-term visas, six-months or less, for medical treatment, private visits, business trips and short-term educational visits.

appointed independent monitor of refusals of entry clearwhether they feel that their ance following the abolition of the right of appeal for short-term visa applicants in

Under the old law, applicants who had been refused a visa by British embassies and consulates in any country abroad had the right to present their case to the Court of Appeals in London. After one and a half years

of investigations, Dame Elizabeth feels able to conclude that visa application procedures have not deteriorated. and that the method of personal interviews with all firsttime applicants conducted by staff employed by British embassies and consulates guarantees that attention is paid to the applicant's particular circumstances.

Applicants are interviewed by entry clearance officers (ECO), who are either members of the British Foreign Office or immigration officers seconded for 3 years abroad, after which they return to Britain.

Dame Elizabeth considers a system based on interviews rather than questionnaires cant, since it allows for a personal assessment of the applicant's request by an experienced interviewer. She claims that more people are granted a visa this way. On the other hand, an interview is more likely to expose flaw: in the applicant's argument.

At the end of their interview, applicants are either issued a visa, or handed a piece of paper spelling out the reasons for refusal. They are then invited by the entry clearance officer to add their own comments and complaints in writing, and then

asked to sign the paper. Under the old law, no reasons for refusal were given.

Dame Elizabeth pointed out that informing applicants of the reasons for refusal gives some the chance to provide supporting evidence. such as missing documents. and then to reapply.

According to Dame Eli-zabeth's findings, complaints are generally few and address matters such as delays in the processing of applications and illegible handwriting of embassy officials when they spell out the reasons for re-

She considers this to be an indication that the new system is basically working.

Japan grants RSCN JD

90,000 to support Dana

Sheikh Mudallal ensemble to perform traditional chants

an evening of authentic Arabic chanting and music during the holy month of Ramadan, the National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation in cooperation with Jordan InterContinental Hotel will present two evenings (Thursday and

AMMAN (J.T.) — Follow-ing its tradition of organising Muwashahat and Mawawweel to be performed by the Syrian Sheikh of chanting, Sabri Mudallal and his ensemble, an NMC statement

Sabri Mudallal is one of the early pioneers who devoted his career to establishing religious chanting ensembles in Friday) of Nabawi praises, an attempt to revive this uni- ensemble has made many

During his long career as a leader of the ensemble, Mr. Mudallal composed 38 melodies of Nabawi praises and other forms of chanting.

These melodies have become some of the most commonly chanted by advocates of this particular art form. Since it was founded, the

public appearances in various Arab and European countries. It has also participated in music festivals such as the Autumn Festival and Festival of Arab Music Days in 1985 (France), Asian Arts Festival (Hong Kong) in 1985, Mediterranean Song Festival (Turkey) in 1993, International Festival of Arab Music

(Beirut) 1993, Arab World

dent body of more than

60,000, according to Minis-

try of Higher Education statistics. Minister of High-

er Education Rateb Saoud

has repeatedly voiced con-

cern that the size of the

Kingdom's higher educa-

tion sector is getting out of hand and causing a flood of

over-qualified graduates into a limited job market

which, according to 1993

Ministry of Labour statis-

tics, is already strained by

unemployment rates near-ing 20 per cent. Another point of differ-

ence between AUA project

members and the council is

whether or not AUA

should be allowed to set up

its campus in Amman. "We

already have at least five or

six universities inside Am-

man itself," said Dr. Hus-

ban, and thus, authorities

saw the addition of another

major college in the Am-

man region as excessive.

But, said Dr. Tahir, a

Institute in Paris in .1993.

In 1988, the ensemble toured Europe giving per-formances in Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and

The performance of the Sheikh Sabri Mudallal ensemble will be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) and the government of Japan Monday signed a grant con-The grant, which falls with-

in the framework of the Japanese Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GAGP), was signed by Anis Mouasher, president of RSCN and Haime Tanaki, charge d'affaires of the Japanese embassy in Amman, the statement said. The Dana Wild Lands Pro-

ject designated as a national nature reserve of some 250 square kilometres of land south of Tafileh and having great ecological value and scenic beauty, aims at safeguarding the biological diversity of the area and involving the people living in and around it in social and economic development activities which are environmentally sustainable, an RSCN, an

Wild Lands Project According to the spokesperson, one of the major components of this project is to establish a complex of buildings consisting of a training centre, workshop. museum/vistors' centre and a research station with the assistance of the U.S. Agency for International Develop-

ment (USAID) and the

World Bank. But the spokesperson said. due to an unexpected soil structure problem, the total cost of the building complex has become much greater than the original proposal. In this context, the assistance of Japan will be used for the construction of a lodging building mainly for researchers and visitors, whose work has been suspended because of the shortage of the funds resulting from the soil explained.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM Film (in Arabic) entitled "Fufr Qasem" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 7:00 p.m.

PLAYS Play (in Arabic) entitled

"You Are Not Yourself"

at the Royal Cultural Centre at 9:00 p.m. Piay (in Arabic) entitled The Mask" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00

ABC News Highlights and McNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Center at 2:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of oil paintings by Sabab Ibrahim at Al Bayraq Art Gallery, Sports City intersection (Tel. 688701).

Exhibition of bandicrafts by Hasmig Kuymjian at the Royal Cultural Centre. * Photo exhibition at the Friends of Archaeology

(with photographs featuring Americans of all ages) at the American Centre. Exhibition of work's by Qasim Ai Samir at the

Planned American university in Amman faces obstacles from government authority

Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN — An ambitious plan to establish a major American-style university in Amman, which project participants predict would enrol 3,000 to 5,000 students within the near future and be similar to the American universities in Beirut ghouti said. and Cairo, (AUB and The group of project

AUC), is facing obstacles. Although project members are requesting the Council of Higher Educa-tion to authorise the launching of the new university, "it is unlikely to be approved by the council," Ahmad Husban, secretarygeneral of the Ministry of Higher Education, told the Jordan Times.

This, he explained, is due to a three-year old resolution by the council not to allow the building of any new private universities in Jordan, except in governorates which do not already have one.

The so-called American University in Amman (AUA) has so far received commitments from three universities in the United States to participate in its launching and staffing: Arizona State University, Oregon State University and Duquesne University, according to Mahmoud Tahir and Jihad Barghouti, both members of the group seeking to launch AUA.

Although they declined to disclose a full list of names, they said members of their group included about 40 people in Jordan, Egypt and several Gulf Arab countries. Those in the Gulf included "several members of royal families in the region," Dr. Bar-

backers is aiming to establish AUA as a "highly selective university" with respect to student admissions, said Dr. Tahir, and with tuitions fees similar to those now charged at AUC, in the vicinity of \$8,000 to \$10,000 a year. AUA's founders would

also seek to obtain full accreditation for the new institution as an American university from authorities in the U.S., he added, thus putting it in the same class and category as AUC and AUB. The university would be

set up as a for-profit public shareholding company, with an initial issuance of stock targetted at JD 10 million, Dr. Tahir said. If all then went well, he said, it was hoped that the university would be able to raise its total capital to JD 15 million within the next

Both Drs. Tahir and Bar-

ghouti maintained that

AUA could play a substan-

tial role in boosting the

two years.

quality of higher education in Jordan, and expressed strong disagreement with the council's current stance on giving it the go-ahead.
"We were told by some

on the council that the university could play a negative role by increasing the unemployment rate in the Kingdom," said Dr. Barghouti. In his view, he said, "this is a catastrophic statement. We are a small country, and we have to look beyond the domestic concerns within our borders if we want to flourish."

AUA would be "an international university," he said, which would draw students from neighbouring countries as well as inside the Kingdom. Thus, he said, it would be a substantial asset to Jordan's prestige in the region. "But it seems that any new idea takes time to be accepted here," Dr. Barghouti

For the council's part, said Dr. Husban, "we have nothing special against the request to establish AUA." However, he said, the council felt compelled to stick to the resolution it had made three years ago to clamp down on the construction of new private

Despite Jordan's small

size, it currently counts 17

universities, public and pri-

vate, with a combined stu-

universities.

university of AUA's type could not possibly exist anywhere in Jordan but Amman. If it is to claim full status in the region as a major international university, he said, and attract numbers and calibre of students and faculty to fulfill that claim, "then it has to be located in a central area

with a high-density popula-

tion." In addition, he said,

"It is going to be an expen-

sive university, and only

those in Amman will be able to afford it."

Despite current reservations of the council, Dr. Tahir said, AUA project members were working to complete a detailed application to the council to open the university, which was initiated last October. by soon after the end of Ramadan. At the outset, Dr. Bar-

ghouti projected, one-third

of AUA's administrative staff would be Americans brought over through exchange programmes with universities in the United States. The target student population would be 3,000 to 5,000 students within five years of AUA's founding, Dr. Tahir said, adding that initial academic prog-rammes would most likely include specialities in the hard sciences, economics and related financial fields. and Arabic language and literature, with a programme in Arabic for nonnative speakers of the lan-

guage. Other Jordanians included in the 40-member group backing the estab-lishment of AUA include. according to Drs. Tahir and Barghouti, Ali Abul Ragheb, minister of industry and trade, Senator and former minister Raja'i Muasher, Mohammad Nihad, a pharmacist, and Nizar Nihad.



Mexico rebels press demand for army withdrawal from Chiapas

Anti-rebel protesters clash with archbishop's supporters

LOS ALTOS, Mexico (AFP) — Zapatista rebels again demanded that federal troops be pulled back from the guerrillas' Chiapas state stronghold, saying that condition for new peace talks would not

"The government does not want to sovle the conflict. what it wants is to annihilate us," the rebels said in a statement. "It wanted to buy us out, but now it wants to destroy us, and will fail

The statement released in Los Altos De Chiapas was attributed to Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) leader Subcomandante Marcos, but was signed by EZLN officials Major Ana Maria and Commanders David and Javier.

It said the rebel force "confirms its will to engage in dialogue," but said an "indispensible requirement" was for federal troops to "return to their original positions of

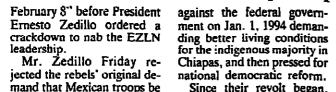
crackdown to nab the EZLN leadership. Mr. Zedillo Friday re-

jected the rebels' original demand that Mexican troops be Despite recent overtime

aimed at bringing the rebels back to the negotiating table," Mr. Zedillo made it cler in a speech to union leaders the government would no longer tolerate a rebel safe haven in Mexican

Mr. Zedillo stressed that the government had restablished "full sovereignty in those areas where federal authority, where the Mexican state was absent for nearly 14 months." With all clarity I reiterate

today: The government will not again indicate our consti-tutional responsibility to preserve the sovereignty of our territory," he said.



the guerrillas have operated unchallenged in the Lacandona jungle near the Guatema-

Last week, Mr. Zedillo sent government troops into the area wiht orders to arrest rebel leaders, including Subcomandante Marcos. But on Tuesday Mr. Zedil-

lo shifted course, ordering the military to avoid clashes and offering the rebels' amnesty if they set down their weapons and become a legal political amnesty if they set down their weapons and become a legal political par-

At the same time, the gov-ernor of Chiapas stepped down, meeting a key condition of the rebels, who had charged he had been elected

The right-wing protesters, who called their demonstration for Army Day, chanted, *Chiapans want reconciliation. Ruiz is division, violence and deceit." The 35-year veteran of the

witnesses said.

On Thursday, the EZLN

"I firmly ratify my convic-

acknowledged Mr. Zedillo's

call for new talks but deman-

ded the army move back.

tion that in Chiapas the solu-

tion is through the political path," Mr. Zedillo said Fri-

day, "but also (it is) through

Casas, Chiapas, hundreds of

anti-rebel protesters clashed

with supporters of the con-troversial Roman Catholic

archbishop.
Police did not intervene as

about 500 members of the

conservative San Cristobal

Civic Front hurled stones and

clubs at the windows of

town's cathedral and fougt

with supporters of

Archbishop Samuel Ruiz

who had formed a "peace belt" around the building,

the observance of the law." Earlier Sunday in the town of San Cristobal De Las

San Cristobal diocese has been heading a mediation team called the National Intermediation Commission that is attending talks between the government and Zapatista National Liberation Army rebels. Injuries were reported on

both sides. Arch. Ruiz, 70, has a reputation here as a defender of the "poorest of the poor." He has also been reviled as a

His attempt to mediate a 13-month conflict in this poor rural state further angered his detractors among this city's agricultural, political and business elite. They have insisted he give up the mediation post while the Zapatistas consider his participation vit-

> For the moment, the consultative Security Council has

pressed its "deep worry" that

ethnic autonomy and running

counter to the Romanian

constitution, the laws in force

regarding the local public

administration and to the

European regulations on the

rights of minorities that

would adversely affect the

internal political life of a

country," a press release re-

"While the government re-

ceived in Amman said.

the recent action of the

become a kind of "politburo"

testers chanted slogans against Arch. Ruiz Supporters of Chiapas controversial while hurling stones and clubs at Arch. Ruiz's Archbishop Samuel Ruiz clash with anti-rebel protesters in front of the cathedral of San Cristobal, Mexico. Some 500 right-wing pro-

supporters who had formed a "peace belt" around the building (AFP photo) Seat of Russian authority is hard to find

MOSCOW (AFP) - The to endorse Mr. Yeltsin's polireal seat of power in Russia these days is becoming harder and harder to find, with President Boris Yeltsin appearing increasingly at the mercy of conflicting interest

groups.
Inconsistency in Moscow's handling of the Chechenya rebellion highlighted fissures in Russia's power base and left analysts guessing as to who was really in charge — the National Security Council, the head of the Presidential Guard, the presidential counsellors or the economic-

military lobbies.
Mr. Yeltsin's annual address to the nation last Thursday, according to one press commentator, was that of a leader forced to acknowledge that the state no longer functions and that he has no

'strategy to put things right."
The president "finds himself in a position similar to that of Mikhail Gorbachev in his final years, hesitating among different forces and interests," comemnted a Russian political specialist.

A Western diplomat added that Mr. Yeltsin's speech 'seemed divorced from real-

AMMAN (J.T.) — The and respect of ethnic identity,

Democratic Union of Hunga- ritorial autonomy based on

rians in Romania are part of a "programme meant to attain Romanian government share

In the Chechen crisis all

decisions appear to have been taken by ministers re-sponsible for military affairs, notably Interior Minister Viktor Erin, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and counter-espionage chief Sergei Stepashin.

"The Russian leadership no longer has any need for parliament to back its decisions, as the leaders of the two chambers -- Ivan Rybkin and Vladimir Shumeiko -are permanent members of the Security Council," said Sergei Parkhomenko, an analyst with the newspaper

"No one is responsible and no one controls what is de-

Another source of nonconstitutional power lies with a group of presidential assistants under the direction of Viktor Ilyushin. While the assistants are officially considered consultants, they are the ones who in fact draft the presidential decress that are beyond the reach of par-

Two of the most influential assistants, Georgy Satarov and Alexander Livshits, prepared Mr. Yeltsin's recent

Romania worried over ethnic Hungarian moves

rights and freedoms stipu-

rejects any attempt at ter-

the extremist discriminatory

statements targeting the

Hungarian minority which

run counter to the constitu-

tion and the national and

international laws regarding

minorities," the press release

ment firmly rejects any

tendency to segregate society

on ethnicity basis and to

The Romanian govern-

lated in the constitution, it

speech to the nation. Also hovering around Mr. Yeltsin is a Presidential Guard led by Alexander Ko-jakov. Press reports recently disclosed that the guard has its own "analysis centre," which submits documents to the president on political, economic, military and press issues that in many instances re-appear as decrees.

Then there are powerful regional leaders, whose influence declined last year but who now wield considerable economic power. "As the opposition begins to assert itself, as democrats

are abandoning Mr. Yeltsin and as relations with the government deteriorate, the president again needs to backing" of the regional chiefs, according to Mr. Parkhomenko.

It is this volatile mix of interests that Mr. Yeltsin is today trying to juggle — and which explains why he has hesitated to hold anyone accountable for the failures of the military operation in Chechenva. But the balancing act can-

not last much longer, particularly as the president must also listen to demands from the military, agricultural, energy and financial sectors.

the political life, endangering

the Romanian people's in-

terests and affecting its

coexistence with the minor-

ities," the press release said.

all legal means to defend the

constitutional order and en-

sure the respect of rights and

obligations of all citizens, in

accordance with the national

and international laws to

which Romania adhered,"

the press release said. "While

the executive authority will

not interfere in the internal

affairs of the political parties,

it also will not condone the

"The government will use

BELJING (AP) — Roxette made a bit of cultural history

Roxette plays

in Beijing

Sunday — becoming the first major Western rock group to play in Beijing in a decade. A sell-out crowd of 10,000 sangalong with the Swedish band's Marie Fredriksson, moved to the beat welled and moved to the beat, yelled and pounded the benches for encores. Ticket prices ranged from 50 yuan to 600 yuan (\$6 to \$71). About 4,000 tickets went for the lowest price about one-seventh of an average Beijing worker's salary

to make them more affordable for students. Rox-: ette's music had preceded their first concert in China. The band sold 70,000 legitimate copies of their 1991
Joyride album in China and untold numbers of pirated copies. Roxette's set was largely the same as on other stops of their world tour. except that government censors demanded changing the lyrics Making Love To You to Making Up To you, EMI Record Company spokes-woman Marie Dimberg said. Pop has flooded China in the years since Wham caused a stir with its female dancers in scanty black leather in 1985. The capital now has music radio, music television and a handful of large new discos where young Chinese go to-dance and relax. Hong Kong and Taiwan pop stars play here and have huge follow-

Scientists say first horseman was in Ukraine

piece of bone in the mouth of a horse, attached a bridle, sat astride the animal and invented horseback riding. That's the conclusion of David Anthony, an anthropologist who searched for the origins of horsemanship by studying marks on the teeth of ancient horses in museums around the world. Learning to domesticate and ride horses marked a revolution in human civilisation, enabling humans at a time before the wheel to travel great distances and find new ways to live, Mr. Anthony said at the national meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The ancients who first rode horses were a "scruffy peo-ple" who were forced to live in the river valleys of the Ukraine. Beyond the rivers, they were trapped by grasslands that defied easy travel on foot, Mr. Anthony said. "There were huge herds of horses then and the first use of those horses was to eat them," he said. "Horses to them (nearly Ukrainians) were like the buffalo to the American Indians." Mr. Anthony began searching for the origins of horseback riding by studying the teeth of modern horses, both wild and tame. He found that under an electron microscope the use of a bit - a bar placed in the teeth of horses - left a distinctive mark on the teeth. The scientist from Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York, then began studying the teeth from ancient horses that were in museums around the world. It was in a Russian collection that he found the earliest evidence for the use

direct a horse from behind and this was before the invention of the wheel." Vietnam police

of a bit. Carbon dating placed

the age of the horses at 4,000 B.C. Anthony said he ex-

perimented on modern

horses with a number of

materials that could have

been used for that first bit,

and determined that bone

most closely matched the

teeth marks found in the

ancient specimens. "I'm sure

the bit was used for riding."

he said. "A bit is used to

seize gems from

illegal miners

HANOI (AFP) — Police fighting an illegal gem mining rush in central Vietnam have seized 18 kilogrammes (40 pounds) of sapphires from some of the 10,000 prospectors that have flooded into a. highland area, an official said Monday. The gems were taken during the first phase of an operation to clear the illegal miners from a 42-square-kilometres (17-square-mile) area in mountainous Daklak province that has drawn huge crowds of prospectors gives the begins taken during the first phase prospectors since the beginning of the month, an official

ATLANTA (AP) — Six thousand years ago, a brave, unknown Ukrainian stuck a

> New Hampshire. leader in three polls released Sunday. None of his rivals were even close. Second

De Klerk: Post-

here Monday.

for the 76-year-old president. Mr. De Klerk told journalists at the start of a week of

Mr. De Klerk said "there is considerable depth of lead-ership in the government of national unity dominated by Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).
This means, he said, that the implementastion of the government's key platform, the ambitious Reconstruction

paper: Mitterrand office bugged pasqua

PARIS (R) — The office of President François Mitter-rand bugged the phones of rand bugget the phones of aids to his political oppo-nent Charles Pasqua, who is nent Charles rasqua, who is now interior minister, on the eve of the 1986 general elec-tion, the daily Le Monde said Monday. The daily said new evi-

dence passed on to a judge showed an anti-terrorist unit showed an ann-terronst unit at Mr. Mitterrand's Elysee Palace illegally listened in on Joel Gali-Papa, responsible at the time for relations berecen Mr. Pasqua's Rally for the Republic (RPR) party and the extreme-right National Front.

There was no immediate comment from the office of Mr. Mitterrand, a Socialist, is due to step down in May when his mandate expires after 14 years in power. Le Monde said investigating magistrate Jean-Paul Valat had received recording details in which the name of hardline conservative Pasqua, who was a senator at the time, came up 11 times under

the codename "charly".

Apart from Gali-Papa, two
other Pasqua aides — Alain Robert and Gerard Ecorcheville - also had their phones apped by the Elvsee unit between September 1985 and March 1986, it said. The Socialists lost the March 1986 Le Monde had reported at

the weekend that police had more than 5,000 items recording details of relatives and friends of people whose phones were tapped, including lawyers, politicians and journalists in the mid-1980s. The report gave a wider dimension to a scandal that broke two years ago. Mr. Mitterrand's ex-cabinet chief Gilles Menage and the for-

akely F

Hampshire (R) — Nine Republican presidential aspirans kicked off the 1996 U.S. presidential campaign Sundy with a frenetic day of political activity in New Hampshire, the state which can make or break presidential dreams.

The nine responded to an invitation from the New Hampshire Republican Party to address some 1,400 activists Sunday evening for six minutes each.

ate majority leader Bob Dole, the most senior and best-known Republican in the country who at age 71 is mounting his third bid for the White House. Both his previous attempts, in 1980 and 1988, died in the snows of

Sen. Dole was the clear

process will continue even if resident Nelson Mandela is forced to leave the presiden-President F. W. De Klerk said

the leader of the conservative National Party (NP) said one of the questions he faced most frequently was: "What will happen if Nelson Mande-la goes!"

briefings at the parliament

executive branch.
Mr. De Klerk reiterated

that "there is no question of

Ramos to defend Spratlys; former advisor says they're not worth it detained Filipino fishermen country's most distinguished. MANILA (AP) — In a clear military figures urged the government to drop its claim reference to Chinese intrubriefly last month. sions in the contested Spratly Islands, President Fidel Filipino officials believe China, which claims all the because it is not worth the

country has one of the

weakest military forces in

The Philippines has in-

creased air surveillance over

the Spratiys using its best

fighter interceptors — five Korean war-vintage F-5 jets.

In addition, 28 patrol ships

and one cargo vessel have been sent to Palawan Island

in the western Philippines to

The Philippines claims Chi-

na has violated a 1992 South

East Asian declaration call-

ing for peaceful resolution of

the territorial dispute. China

has offered bilateral talks on

developing the Spratlys but

the Philippines has refused

because that would leave

to royal pathway at Windsor Castle

augment routine patrols.

South East Asia.

Ramos has promised to defend the nation's sovereignty of other claimants by making and urged foreign intruders to leave.

Supporters of San Cristobal Archbishop,

Samuel Ruiz, shield themselves from stones

and clubs being hurled by right-wing protes-

"As your commander-in-chief, I will not allow any slackening in our defence, Mr. Ramos told alumni of the Philippine Military Academy Sunday. "...If there be any intruders into our territory or exclusive economic zone, we shall ask them to depart and leave us in peace. Last week, Mr. Ramos, a

former defence secretary. ordered additional troops to the Spratlys after the Philippine military reported Chinese incursions in portions of the mineral-rich chain claimed by Manila. The South China Sea is-

lands are also claimed by Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunéi and Taiwan. Philippine officials claim the Chinese have built a platform on the Panganiban Reef and that they Marchers demonstrate for access

WINDSOR, England (AP)

— Three hundred people

marched through private

grounds of Windsor Castle Sunday, demanding access to

a stretch of pathway that is

set aside for the royal family.

open the question of On Saturday, one of the

Spratlys, is testing the resolve trouble.

ters outside the cathedral of San Cristobal

incursions in Philippine-claimed areas because this accidentally, what are we supposed to do?" former Defence Secretary Rafael Ileto told reporters. Gen. Ileto, a West Point

graduate, World War II combat veteran and former vice chief of staff, served as defence secretary and later as national security adviser under President Corzaon Aquino.

Leftists also have warned that the government's "confrontational" position placed the country at risk of a war it cannot afford. They also suggested that the saber-rattling was meant to coerce Congress into allocating funds for the military's modernisation programme.

Congress last week approved a 50 billion peso (\$2 billion) budget to streng-then the armed forces.

|Portugal's new PSD leader rejects "If one of our soldiers early polls

TŽRON (K) Minister Fernando Nogueira rejected the idea of early general elections after he became leader of Portugal's ruling Social Democrat Party (PSD) in succession to Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Sil-

Mr. Nogueira, 44, beat Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Durao Barroso by 519 votes to 486 in a secret ballot of delegates to a three-day party congress in Lisbon. But Mr. Cavaco Silva will remain prime minister until parliamentary elections later this

Mr. Nogueira said in his victory speech that he would reject any move by President Mario Soares to bring for-ward the elections from October and would strive to

maintain the PSD's unity. He pledged to follow faithfully in the footsteps of Mr. Cavaco Silva, who has ruled Portugal with a firm hand for a decade.

"May God help me to build the country that you dreamed of," said Mr. Nogueira, who has served as Mr. Cavaco Silva's number two in both the government and PSD for several years. Mr. Nogueira ridiculed opposition Socialist leader

Antonio Guterres, saying he was a demagogue and false prophet incapable of offering genuine solutions to the country's problems. "He says he can wipe out

unemployment in two days whereas God took three to make the world," Mr. Nogueira said.

The new PSD leader promised a stable economic policy that would inspire market confidence and a hard line on reducing inflation from its current level of 4.5 per cent. "It is essential to maintain a firm course with no zig-

zags," he said. Mr. Nogueira also pledged his commitment to a more integrated Europe, saying Portugal's future depended "We must participate actively and skilfully in the

U.S. President Bill Clinton (left) and Secretary of Veteran Affairs Jesse Brown (right) are joined by unidentified veterans during a cere-mony in Arlington, Virginia, marking the 50th anniversary of the battle of Iwo Jima. Presi-

ARLINGTON, Virginia (AP) — Joined by aging heroes of Iwo Jima, President Bill Clinton honoured soldiers bloodied and killed 50

The president, in keynote remarks commemorating the 50th anniverary of the pivotal battle, paid tribute to four Iwo Jima survivors by name and urged Americans to honour the memories of all soldiers to fought for the tiny

Pacific island. strongest nation in the world

misty haze over the Potomac River, the president said, "and we must work to create a nation worthy of the generation that saved it for our He spoke beneath a 78-

foot (24-metre) bronze statue depicting the famous wartime photograph of U.S. soldiers hosting a flag atop Mount Suribachi. "Hard men wept when they saw the flag fly? Mr. Clinton said, The Associated Press

photo by Joe Rosenthal symbolised the nation's resolve, courage.

In 36 days, U.S. casualties numbered 26,000, including 6,821 dead. For the of tunnels.

dent Clinton addressed Veterans and their

families commending the courage shown at the

battle that cost one out of every three U.S.

Marines his life (AFP photo)

spects the fact that the main Hungarian party's attempt at altering the institutional undermine the territorial sovereignty and integrity of political parties have made structures of the country as clear their positions, a sine the unitary national state. established in its constitution." qua non for the recognition and will make no concessions

Clinton salutes Iwo Jima's aging heroes Washington visible through a

years ago in the savage World War II battle. "The dimen-sions of their struggle still stagger us." he said Sunday.

Japanese, the toll was even more gruesome. Of the island's 20,000 defenders, only 1,083 survived. Thousands of the dead are still missing, their bones hidden in the volcanic island's intricate web

Introducing the president, Medal of Honour winner Col. William E. Barber shared his memories of "that 8-mile (13-km) chunk of rock hear the noise of battle."

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Leading the field was Sen-

place in all three polls went to Gulf war military leader Col-lin Powell, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who is not a candidate and not even a registered

But one of the polls, in the Sunday New Hampshire

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — South Africa's democracy ment.

major indemi the N offered Unveiling his vision of post-Mandela South Africa. police apartic We part in

that it will not come to that

"But if it happens, the con-tinuation will be assured,"

and Development Programme (RDP), will be guaranteed no matter who leads the

process of European conof pathway citing security the protest held to persuade the queen to open up to the "To be worthy of that sacstruction," he said. at the provincial industrial Mr. Clinton said. "Our counand volcanic ash." In a haltreasons.... public a footpath in the castle grounds running along the rifice, we must determine in "The Criminal Justice Act Mr. Cavaco Silva congratuoffice said. Police have taken try saw the true definition of ing voice, he told dozens of Thames (AFP photo) lated Mr. Nogueira on his this time to remain the control of the area in Dac makes it a criminal offense to fellow veterans in the crowd: spokesman said later that 20 The march was largely trespass on private land but win and expressed confidence Nong district pending a deci-"I am older now, as are you, people were arrested for pub-The Battle of Iwo Jima, in his leadership of the party. so that our freedom is never sion from the government on the mining, the official said although he added that illegil mining was still going on all we feel we have a right to peaceill until the end, withor but I can still see the colours lic order offenses. Police estione of the nation's bloodiest, again threatened," Mr. Clin-"Fernando Nogueira is a walk in the countryside scuffles began as police tried of that February morning. mated about 300 protesters serious person, someone with ton told a crowd of about gave the United States an air The sky. The island. And sometimes I think I can still whenever we choose without to shepherd the demonstrabase for long-range bombing took part, and there were 400 having to suffer arrest and the capacity to be president tors into waiting buses.

A Thames Valley Police mining was still going on missions against mailand of the Social Democrat Party. With the monuments of harassment."

Twenty people were arrested in the demonstration, organised by campaigners against a new law, the Criminal Justice Act, which treats trespass on private property as a crime. The crown insisted that public access would compromise royal security, but by arrangement with the Roval Household, the demonstra-tors were allowed to march on the one-and-a-half mile (2.5 km) stretch of towpath by the River Thames. The section of pathway through the castle grounds is part of a 180-mile (290 km) Thames riverside walk route. Dixie Dean, spokeswoman for the Coalition Against the Criminal Justice Act, said:

This is a public right of way. A protestor being led away by police during a demonstration The queen has refused against the Criminal Justice Act on the Queen's Crown ramblers access to this stretch Estate Property in Windsor. Twenty people were arrested in

Paper: **Mitterrand office** bugged **Pasqua**

PARIS (R) — The office of President François Mitterrand bugged the phones of aides to his political opponent Charles Pasqua, who is now interior minister, on the eve of the 1986 general election, the daily Le Monde said Monday.

The daily said new evidence passed on to a judge showed an anti-terrorist unit at Mr. Mitterrand's Elysee Palace illegally listened in on Joel Gali-Papa, responsible at the time for relations between Mr. Pasqua's Rally for the Republic (RPR) party and the extreme-right National Front.

There was no immediate comment from the office of Mr. Mitterrand, a Socialist. who is due to step down in May when his mandate expires after 14 years in power. Le Monde said investigat-

ing magistrate Jean-Paul Valat had received recording details in which the name of hardline conservative Pasqua, who was a senator at the time, came up 11 times under the codename "charly".

Apart from Gali-Papa, two

other Pasqua aides — Alain Robert and Gerard Ecorcheville - also had their phones tapped by the Elysee unit between September 1985 and March 1986, it said. The Socialists lost the March 1986 election.

Le Monde had reported at the weekend that police had more-than 5,000 items recording details of relatives and friends of people whose phones were tapped, including lawyers, politicians and

journalists in the mid-1980s. The report gave a wider dimension to a scandal that broke two years ago. Mr. Mitterrand's ex-cabinet chief Gillés Menage and the for-

MANCHESTER, New

Hampshire (R) - Nine Re-

publican presidential aspir-

ants kicked off the 1996 U.S.

presidential campaign Sun-

day with a frenetic day of

political activity in New

Hampshire, the state which

The nine responded to an

invitation from the New

Hampshire Republican Party

to address some 1,400 activ-

ists Sunday evening for six

Leading the field was Sen-

ate majority leader Bob

Dole, the most senior and

best-known Republican in

the country who at age 71 is

mounting his third bid for the

White House. Both his pre-

vious attempts, in 1980 and

1988, died in the snows of

leader in three polls released

Sunday. None of his rivals

were even close. Second

place in all three polls went to

Gulf war military leader Col-

lin Powell, the former chair-

man of the Joint Chiefs of

Sen. Dole was the clear

New Hampshire.

make of Di

tial dreams.

minutes each.



French Prime Minister and conservative preseffortiess victory in apcoming presidential idential candidate Edouard Balladur passes by elections, has suddenly found his lead shortena camera and prompter at his arrival on ing, just as the race moves properly into sear France 2 TV set for an interview. Mr. Balladur, for months coasting to an apparently

mer head of the anti-terrorist unit. Christian Prouteau. were placed under formal judicial investigation last year on suspicion of ordering the

Opponents of Prime Minister Edouard Balladur's bid for the French presidency rushed to make political capital Monday out of charges of illegal wiretapping, forcing him on to the defensive.

The conservative premier, for long the runaway favourite to become the next president, also saw his ratings slip in opinion polls.

Supporters of Mr. Balladur's right-wing rival, Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, seized on an admission by the prime minister that his office authorised police to tape telephone conversations by a Paris politician.

The politician, Jean-Pierre Marechal, has said he was the victim of extortion in a plot to derail a probe into the finances of Mr. Balladur's Rally For the Republic (RPR)

Chirac backer Jean-Louis Debre, the RPR's general secretary, denounced what he branded "a monarchial drift which is an attack on individual freedom."

"We've had enough of reg-imes which listen in," Mr. Debre told France-Inter Radio. "It saddens me to see people still using methods which are against the republic. democracy and equality."

National Assembly Speaker Philippe Seguin, a Balla-dur foe within the RPR, said he would ask for a parliamentary inquiry if there was no convincing official explana-

Right-wing anti-Maastricht campaigner Philippe De Villiers branded the bugging 'profoundly immoral."

The patrician-like Balladur countered that it was not surprising a prime minister should be the focus of criticism in the run-up to the April-May presidential election. He appealed for an end

to "poisonous" accusations.
"Everything was perfectly
regular and legal. I challenge anyone to prove the opposite," he told a television interviewer, adding that his office had given the green light for the tapping under emergency regulations because the cause was urgent. The bugging, without judi-

cial permission, has been declared illegal by a court. "It was a Ballador manifestly on the defensive who

Thurmond on the ticket if

people felt he was too young.

at this early stage is Texas

Sen. Dole's main opponent

SARAJEVO (AFP) — The U.N. Protection Force (UN-PROFOR) said Monday it would increase monitoring of local airspace in a bid to deter violations of the no-fly zone over Bosnia by dozens of unidentified aircraft, notably

helicopters. The aircraft are flying covert missions, especially at night, to reinforce and resupply military positions, according to informed sources here.

New listening and observa-tion posts will be set up, using both human and electronic detection methods, in the Tuzla area of northeast Bosnia in the wake of the latest violations, UNPROFOR spokesman Major Herve Gourmelon said.

would notably be issued with night-vision goggles. "We shal try, if not to prevent, to detect more pre-

U.N. soldiers in the area

Overnight Friday, seven-

cisely further flights," in the Tuzia area, he said.

teen helicopter sorties were detected over the government-held Tuzla area. along with a flight by a fixedwing aircraft, Maj. Gourme-

Large-scale violations of no-fly

Helicopters were detected flying in groups of twos and threes, but at one stage up to five flew in formation, he

And on Sunday, a helicopter identified as an MI8 was detected in the same area.

Violations of the no-fly zone imposed by the U.N. Security Council in October 1992 are not new, as all parties to the war have made regular use of aircraft, especially helicopters, to reinforce and resupply.

There is a pattern of very regular violation of air space over Bosnia, especially by helicopter," said UNPRO-FOR spokesman Alexander Ivanko. Some 5,000 violations of

Bosnian airspace had been reported since the no-fly ban was imposed, he said. Franco Veltri, a North

Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) spokesman in Na-ples, for his part put the

number of violations registered both by the Atlantic alliance and UNPROFOR at 3.700 violations over the same period.

Most were by helicopters, many painted white and bear-ing a Red Cross, which made it difficult for action to be taken against them, he said. But there was "no air activity in direct support of military

action," he added. The only time NATO intervened to enforce the no-fly zone was in February last year when two U.S. F-16 fighters downed four Serb planes over the central Bosnian town of Novi Travnik as they sought to attack a government munitions factory.

UNPROFOR monitors Bosnian airspace from the ground, while NATO aircraft, including AWACS radar planes, constantly keep watch from the sky. Serb radio in Pale, quoting

a commander in the eastern sector, Monday denied that the most recent flights were by Serb aircraft.

The commander warned

zone reported over Bosnia that Serb forces would strike at Tuzla Airport should fighting resume to stop Muslim forces from receiving supplies

> Meanwhile, Britain Monday downplayed the signifi-cance of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's rejection of the latest proposals by the Contact Group on Bosnia, saying the proposals were "still totally valid."

> Mr. Milosevic was simply "putting his view on the table" and it did not come as "a surprise," a Foreign Office spokesman said.

Mr. Milosevic Sunday rejected a proposal that Serbia recognise Croatia and Bosnia in exchange for the lifting of most U.N. sanctions against the rump Yugoslavia.

Serbian recognition of Croatia and Bosnia would apparently force Belgrade to abandon any hopes of linking up with Serbs in those republics to form a "Greater Ser-

The proposal was made, at the initiative of France, by the Contact Group.

Paul Newman wins award at Berlin Film Festival

ing a nearly over-the-hill construction worker in Robert Benton's Nobody's Fool, won the Best Actor Award Monday at the Berlin International Film Festival.

Another U.S. film industry victory was scored by Richard Linkater, who won the Silver Bear Best Director Award for Before Sunrise. Other top prizes went to films from France, Russia, Hong Kong and China.

The Golden Bear Award for best film went to l'Appat, or Live Bait, by French director Bertrand Tavernier. It is a murder story taken from real events that happened in Paris

A beautiful young woman, played by Marie Gillian, is bait to set up rich older men who are robbed and killed so her boyfriend (Olivier Sitruk) and his friend (Bruno Putzulu) can have money to openclothing stores in the United

Special Mention second prize for best film went to Smoke, by Hong Wang, whose Joy Luck Club was a big American hit in 1993. The story of a Brooklyn tobacco-store owner, played by Harvey Keitel, Smoke was favourite of critics during the 12-day Berlinale, as the

festival is nicknamed. Keitel's acting was cited by the 10-member jury as "especially oustanding," putting him in second place behind Paul Newman, who now has a Berlinale Silver Bear behind him as he contends for the Best-Actor Oscar.

Josephine Siao won the Best Actress Silver Bear for her portrayal of the daughterin-law of a Hong Kong man affilicted by Alzheimer's disease in the movie "Xiatian De Xue," or Summer Snow,

by director Ann Hui. Siao is losing her hearing, and Summer Snow may be Hong Kong actress.

BERLIN (AP) — Oscar is the love story of a young nominee Paul Newman, play- American (Ethan Hawke) and a French woman (Julié Delpy) who meet on the train from Budapest and spend a get-to-know-you day together in Vienna. Linklater, 33, first won recognition for the less conventional 1989 movie Slacker, a portrait of generation X young people

> A Silver Bear for Best Theme and Style went to Russian director Vadim Abdraschitov's "Pjesa Dlya Passashria." or The Play For

> A Passenger. The Silver Bear for Best Visual Achievement was won by "Hongfen," or Rouge, by Chinese director Li Shaohong.

> The main competition of the 45th annual Berlinale had few of the contenders for this year's Hollywood Oscars. Nobody's Fool was the only competition film with Oscar-nominations — New-

man for Best Actor and

Robert Benton for Best Adapted Screenplay. A few American movies shown outside the competinon had multiple Usca nominations and were enthusiastically received: Quiz Show directed by Robert

Redford and The Shawshank

Redemption directed by Frank Darabont. This year's festival was a celebration of a century of movies, with offerings dating from the first short movies that were shown to paying audiences in Berlin and Paris

in 1895.

Other prizes awarded at the end of the festival:

— Norway's "Ti Kniver I Hjertet," or Cross My Heart . And Hope To Die, by director Marius Holst, won the Blue Angel Special Prize sponsored by Kodak and the European Academy of Film

and Television. - Special Mention to "Colpo Di Luna," or Moon Shadow, by Italian director Alberto Simone.

 Special Mention to "Sh'chur," by Israeli director Shmuel Hasfari.

ciliation Commission would

probe apartheid-era crimes

by the security forces and

members of the black libera-

opposition to the truth com-

mission does not come from

the masses, but from highly

placed people in the govern-

ment who aree scared that

their activities will be

African Security Police Col-onel Eugene De Kock,

alleged to have run a police

death squad, pleaded inno-

cent in Pretoria Supreme

Court Monday to 121 charges

ranging from murder to arms

The case is the first to

come to court following find-

ings by a government-

appointed commission prob-ing violence in South Africa,

which reached a peak in the

run-up to the country's first

all-race elections in April last

the top officers named by the

commission headed by Judge

Richard Goldstone in its re-

port on "criminal political

in the former Kwazulu black

homeland and members of

the Zulu-based Inkatha Free-

Mr. De Kock, 45, is one of

Meanwhile former South

He said that the "stiffest

tion movements.

known.'

U.S. seeks NATO support for Russia deal

BRUSSELS (R) - Washington sought support from its NATO allies Monday for an approach to Russia offering a broader relationship as a way of allaying Moscow's fear over plans to expand NATO membership up to its bor-

NATO sources said alliance ambassadors examined a letter from President Bill Clinton to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, sketching out the outlines of a new "enhanced dialogue."

The approach to Moscow represents a major policy switch by the alliance and diplomats say, is a triumph for Russian diplomacy which appears to have had little problem containing the fallout from the crisis in

Chechenya. It was not immediately clear if the letter received the backing of the NATO allies, many of whom are wary-of plans to try to extend the alliance eastwards to include at least some of Moscow's former partners in East and Central Europe.

offer could result in a new treaty embracing all aspects of future Russia-West rela-

tions. "It is clear the U.S. administration wants to put enlargement on the fast track and is seeking to buy off Russian opposition with an offer of some form of en-

one alliance diplomat

hanced relationship,"

Mr. Yeltsin was angered by a NATO decision last December to set up a study group to look into possible enlargement to include Moscow's former Warsaw Pact

He warned the West such a move would create a new divide and replace the cold war with a "cold peace."

Since then, several attempts to reassure Moscow NATO enlargement would not pose a security threat have failed, forcing Western planners to focus on how to take in new members without

alienating Russia.
On Monday, NATO Secretary General Willy Cines said it was time to defale the parameters of a sustainable relationship with Moscow, but said the alliance recognised its obligation to anchor former East Bloc countries into the democratic

"We must acknowledge Russia's weight in European security and its legitimate security interests," he wrote in an article in Britain's

"We need a cooperative relationship with Russia pursuing democratisation and economic reform, and respecting human rights: An open relationship that can withstand occasional differences," he added.

A year ago NATO ruled out any special deal for Russia beyond Partnership for Peace.

Indians vote in key state poll seen favouring BJP

said.

rapidly-industrialising western state of Gujarat amid reports of scattered violence and predictions of a proopposition swing.

A bomb went off in village on the outskirts of the state's commercial capital of Ahmedabad Monday morning injuring four people but police said they were still checking whether it was pollrelated violence.

Police used batons to disperse a group of about 400 workers from the rightwing opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) who tried to take over a polling booth in an Ahmedabad school.

The elections in Gujarat, along with polls held earlier this month in Maharashtra. state, are seen as crucial to the future of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's reformist government.

A poll by the fortnightly India Today magazine predicted a loss for the ruling Congress in Gujarat to the Hindu nationalist BJP. Fortythree per cent said they would vote for the BJP while 35 per cent favoured Con-

Most voters said the BJP would fare better at removing corruption, improving law and order and tackling commmalism. Overall voting was light to

moderate. Election officials said up to 40 per cent of the eligible

voters had cast their ballots by late afternoon in the first of two phases of voting. The second was scheduled for Saturday.

Witnesses said polling was heavy in Muslim-dominated areas of Ahmedabad, yet many Muslims appeared con-

والمنظوم والمنافرة والمنطقة
AHMEDABAD (R) - Indi- vote for. The state Congress ans voted Monday in the first has fielded just 10 Muslim round of key elections in the candidates in the 182-seat contest to the assembly while the BJP has a sole Muslim

> nominee. "Partly the problem is that there is nobody to vote for. We do not want either the BJP or the Congress to benefit," Hassan Khan, a businessman who has been a staunch Congress supporter in the past, told Reuters. In Hindu districts the poll-

an auspicious day for weddings under the Hindu calendar and many families were preoccupied with festivities. Some 400 weddings had been scheduled across the city Monday: "Even the smallest of wedding halls is booked today and I don't expect people to come to voting until the afternoon," said Lallo Shah, a party worker with the rightwing Hindu Bhartiya Janata Party

ing was lighter because it was

(BJP). More than 150,000 police and para-military units were on patrol across the state, and police said 16,236 people with criminal records had been taken into preventive costody ahead of the polls to prevent trouble. They were to be escorted to voting stations by policemen.

Gujarat is the latest in a string of state elections that began last November which could reshape the political map of India.

ashtra, Gujarat, Bihar and

Staff, who is not a candidate Sen. Gramm the most and not even a registered whirlwind visit, telling sup-Alan Keyes, California Repthe last movie for the leading money, former Tennessee Republican. porters in North Conway he resentative Robert Dornan But one of the polls, in the Governor Lamar Alexander would put 92-year-old South and former Labour Secretary Before Sunrise, which won Sunday New Hampshire Carolina Senator Strom has surprised many by build-Linklater the director's prize, Lvan Martin.

CAPE TOWN (AFP) -South Africa's democracy process will continue even if President Nelson Mandela is forced to leave the presidency, his predecessor, deputy President F.W. De Klerk said here Monday.

Unveiling his vision of post-Mandela South Africa, the leader of the conservative National Party (NP) said one of the questions he faced most frequently was: "What will happen if Nelson Mande-

la goes?"
"We all hope and pray" that it will not come to that for the 76-year-old president. Mr. De Klerk told journalists at the start of a week of briefings at the parliament

here. "But if it happens, the continuation will be assured,"

Mr. De Klerk said "there is considerable depth of leadership" in the government of national unity dominated by Mr. Mandela's African

National Congress (ANC). This means, he said, that the implementastion of the government's key platform, the ambitious Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), will be guaranteed no matter who leads the

executive branch, Mr. De Klerk reiterated that "there is no question of

press their preference for candidate — next February will be the first real test of candidates' strength among

presidential nomination. President Bill Clinton, as the White House incumbent.

If elected, Sen. Dole would be the oldest president ever to take office. But he sought

Though New Hampshire is one of the smallest U.S. states, with barely a million people, the northeastern

News, found 39 per cent of

likely Republican voters un-

state has long had a dispropτιοπατείν U.S. presidential race.

Its primary election — in which the party faithful ex-

Since 1948, with one exception in 1964, the winner of the Republican primary here has gone on to win the party's

has a strong advantage in the race for the Democratic nomination but he is not assured of being his party's

to meet the age issue head on as he launched a three-day

the NP leaving the govern-

ment," as rumoured after a

major crisis during the New

Year period sparked by the

indemnity from prosecution

the NP government had

offered in its final days to

policemen accused of

part in the government) with

dedication, in a constructive

the three parties that make

up the government — the ANC, the NP and Home

Affairs Minister Mangosuthu

Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom

Party — "represent 92 per

As a result, he said,

"sometimes we are competi-

tors... so we will criticise

where criticism is due, and

He said the government

functions "reasonably well,"

and described his personal

relationship with Mr. Mande-

la as "correct, frank and cor-

The cabinet, he said, works

"very well" in implementing

economic and fiscal policy

and he was full of praise for

said, now belongs to the gov-

ernment as a whole and not

to any of itpour....

The plan, Mr. De Klerk

"It has the capacity... year

cent of the electorate."

propose solutions."

Mr. De Kierk noted that

We will continue (to take

apartheid-era crimes.

spirit," he said.

Senator Phil Gramm, who will become the first man to formally announce his candidacy, after a fund-raising in Dallas Frigay which he hopes to collect over \$3 million.

U.S. Republican presidential hopefuls make debut

Relations betwen Sen. Dole and Sen. Gramm, both tough political street fighters. have the potential to become nasty as the race develops. Sen Gramm has attacked Sen. Dole for, in his words, not being a true conservative. Sen. Dole responded he was

> Gramm was still in high school. Sen. Dole was the only one of the nine prospective candidates not to participate in a TV forum a few hours before the convention. The debate was marked by flare-ups over abortion and the relations between the federal govern-

a conservative when Sen.

ment and the states. While Sen. Dole has the highest name recognition and

to year, to yield results," he

how he could reconcile issues

such as the death penalty, on

which the NP and the ANC

are at odds, with Mr. Mande-

la's statement Friday that the

government has "collective responsibility" in defining

"In a coalition," he said,

"there must be room for par-

ties to differ publicly (on

some issues) without this

creating a crisis resulting in

the government breaking

current government is to rule

by consensus, Mr. De Klerk

said, "you cannot have a

consensus on the death

penalty: You are either for or

parties give thier members the freedom to vote as they

see fit personally when the

issue, now under discussion

by the Constitutional Court

in Johannesburg, comes be-

He said NP members

would be left to vote as they

like on the death penalty,

because it is a matter of

Mr. De Klerk said Monday

don offices of the ANC

allegedly by agents of the

fore parliament.

conscience."

He suggested that political

against."

Although the policy of the

and implementing policy.

Mr. De Klerk was asked

nisation, possibly the best of anyone at this stage, according to New Hampshire Republican Governor Steve Mr. Alexander, a former

ing an impressive state orga-

went on television to plead

both that (the wiretap) had

been an urgent matter and

normal practice," the leftist

Le Parisien echoed: "The

bugging has trapped Balla-

The accusations put to se-

vere test Mr. Balladur's

strategy of projecting himself

as aloof from the political

fray. The silver-haired pre-

mier has insisted he is too

busy governing to stoop to

politicking.
In the latest sign of Mr.

Balladur's slipping popularity

after student unrest, a

weekend IFOP opinion poll

showed the number of voters

satisfied with his policies had

fallen from 55 per cent to 46

per cent over the past month.

All surveys, however, show he would win the May 7

presidential run-off, whether

he faces Mr. Chirac or Social-

ist candidate Lionel Jospin.

graft by the RPR-controlled

Paris housing authorities

forced the resignation of

Cabinet Minister Michel

Roussin last year. It is closing

in on aides of Interior Minis-

ter Charles Pasqua, a power-

ful Balladur backer, and Mr.

The probe into alleged

daily Liberation said.

education secretary, said on ABC Television he wanted to shift power and resources from the federal government to states and localities.

"I think the American people have had it about right up to here with Washington, D.C., and even with a Republican Congress," he said, referring to the Republican takeover of Congress last November.

Sen. Gramm, appearing on CBS Television, said his first priority as president would be balancing the budget in his first four years. "I will not run for re-election unless I get the job done," he pledged.

Others speaking at the event in Manchester are Senator Arien Specter of Pennsylvania. Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana, columnists Pat Buchanan and

De Klerk: Post-Mandela S. Africa will continue on democracy path

former white government was wrong and should never had happened. The former president was responding to allegations in a London newspaper by former South African agent Craig Williamson that he was part "I have never been in any of a seven-man team that bombed the ANC's London

office in March 1982 after assembling the device in the South African embassy. Mr. Williamson also told of his role in the parcel-bomb killings of activists Ruth First and Jeanette Schoon and ber

six-year-old daughter. First, the wife of Communist leader Joe Slovo who died of cancer in January, was killed in Maputo and Ms. Schoon in Angela by bombs Mr. Williamson claimed were assembled by police in Pre-

Mr. De Klerk, who was president from 1989 to last April's first all-race election and a cabinet minister before then, was a member of a State Security and Intelligence Panel during the years of apartheid rule when government agencies were involved in the elimination of

political opponents. But he said Monday that he had no part in any attacks against anti-apartheid leaders and organisations. "The crime was wrong and should never have been done," Mr. De Klerk said of the London attack. "It was unacceptable, it should be investigated and people responsible should be taken to court."

meeting in which a decision to commit a crime was taken." Mr. De Klerk said. "and I have never participated in any decision (to order) an assassination." But he told reporters that at the time, "there was a war

on" and the regime of the time was faced by "groups with armed wings with the avowed aim of overthrowing Although the apartheid government had "no political

legitiamcy, it had relations

with many countries and had constitutional and legal legitimacy," Mr. De Klerk said. He said it was "normal" for the state to defend itself. but stressed that he had never condoned either criminal action or political assassination as a means, "because there are rules of war."

President Mandela told journalists after meeting Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson that he had "taken note" of Mr. Williamson's allegations.

Mr. Mandela said that the planned Truth and Recon-

4.4 3.67

- 25

Results of voting in the four crucial states of Mahar-

Orissa will only be known in mid-March. Counting has been delayed until March 11, so that results from one state do not influence polling in another. Two other northeast states - Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh - are also fused about who they would holding state elections.

Chairman of the Board of Directors: MAHMOUD AL KAYED

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Tolerance key to progress

THE TUSSLE over last month's controversial visit to Syria by the leaders of eight political parties opposed to the peace process between the Arabs and Israel seems to have ended amicably. Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad, the official in charge of monitoring political parties' activities and ensuring their adherence to the law, met on Sunday evening with the leaders of all registered parties, including the eight who went to Damascus, and discussed with them the implications of violating the political parties' law and the need to work as one team, whether in government or opposition, for the higher interests of the country above

The controversy over the Damascus visit was triggered by some statements which were made by the opposition politicians to the Syrian media in which they criticised the government for signing a peace treaty with Israel. However, those politicians maintain that what they were saying in Syria was pretty much the same as they have been saying here, albeit not on television. In any case, many Jordanians were irritated by the eight groups, first for wisiting Syria in such a way at this time, and second for using the Syrian media to air their views on a matter considered by many as a national security issue especially that the Syrians themselves are denied the same right in their own media.

By settling the issue out of court, we think the Jordanian leadership and the government can only contribute to strengthening tolerance, understanding and positive engagement towards all political shades and groups in the country, thus boosting pluralism and the democratic atmosphere as a whole. Nobody benefits from tarnishing the image of the opposition just as the opposition should not use non-Jordanian platforms to attack their country.

This episode and the one before it, involving a parliamentary delegation's visit to prisoners, indicate a spirit of understanding, compromise and willingness for accommodation between the regime and the opposition. This spirit has also characterised the relationship between Sherif Zeid's two previous

administrations and the opposition, especially the Islamists. This attitude of understanding and compromise is very important for keeping a balance that would ensure that democracy will continue to progress and take held and that opposition will not be pushed into becoming more radical at a time when Jordan needs the efforts of both, government and opposition, to guarantee its stability, on the one hand, and economic revival on the

arabic press commentaries

A WRITER in Al Ra'i daily criticised television coverage of Parliament affairs, saying that major parts of the important speeches delivered by deputies are withheld from the public. Jordan Television should not be the sole authority for screening Parliament sessions because it is openly biased; and should the practice of cancelling parts of deputies speeches continue, Parliament could bar television cameras entry into the Parliament house, said Bassam Emoush. The writer, who is also member of Parliament, said a deputy should also have the right to request that his speech to broadcast in full for the public's benefit. Otherwise, he said, television would not have served its purpose. In editing out parts of the speech and in seeking only to present parts that heap praise on the government, television would be distorting the image of the people's representative whose views should be relayed to the public under the present democratic climate in Jordan, said the

A WRITER in Al Dustour criticised the Lower House of Parliament for failing to accomplish its work during the current session, which ends Tuesday, and expressed hope that the coming session will be more fruitful. Had the deputies shortened their speeches and averted futile debates about the fiscal budget and other issues, they would have finalised the new draft labour law, for instance, said Mohammad Daoud. The draft labour law was supposed to have acquired priority over the various topics on the House's agenda but the many quarrels among Parliament members themselves and differences with the government over petty issues delayed any action, said the writer.

The View from Fourth Circle

By Rami G. Khouri

Oslo to Jenin: Time for the pause that refreshes?

Israeli negotiations this week is not as grave as it seems. In fact, it is probably a positive development, for it's better to have pressure for success in the talks created by an impasse than by further killings by both sides. The last 17 months of negotiations, since the Oslo accord signing, have achieved some positive breakthroughs, but they have also highlighted the obvious and serious weaknesses of that accord.

The main weakness is the haughty, greedy and quasiracist attitude of the Israeli government towards withdrawal from occupied lands and transfer of political authority and sovereignty to the Palestinians. The Israelis will say they are being cautious because they do not want further withdrawals to result in renewed terror attacks against Israelis. This is seen by Palestinians and other Arabs as being haughty, greedy and quasi-racist.

It has become obvious that the parties themselves, even in the presence of the American administration, are not able to achieve the breakthrough towards full justice and peace that we all seek. That will require the momentum that can come either from magnanimity, which is in short supply these days, or fear, which is plentiful on all sides.

The Israeli offer last week to withdraw from the West Bank town of Jenin is an insult, but it is not unexpected. It is an insult because it tells the Palestinians that they have to earn their rights through good behaviour, like criminals on parole. It tells them that they are not necessarily entitled to their ancestral land and rights per se, by the grace of their own humanity and national identity, but that they will be given land and political rights in a piecemeal fashion by the Israeli occupiers. We in the Arab World read this to mean that Israel places its own rights and security above the rights and security of Arabs. The Palestinians were right to reject the Jenin offer.

The offer was not unexpected because Israel is behaving in a manner that is typical of its history of racist post-colonial domination. Israel repeatedly says it wants to live in peace with the Palestinians, but it cannot bring itself to state clearly that Israelis and Palestinians enjoy equal rights as human beings and as national communities. Oslo was promising because it reflected the desire of two

communities seeking to live side by side in mutual justice. rights, security and composure. The implementation of the Oslo accord has not verified this. It has only accentuated the imbalance that is based on Israel's self-perception as enjoying a superior right to security, and priority in implementing that right.

The peace process will succeed, I am still convinced, because of three reasons: There are no viable short-term alternatives, both peoples want it to work, and the cost of total breakdown will probably be the reassertion of Likud and Hamas-Islamist political triumph in Israel and Palestine. That would lead to untold new calamities, without resolving the fundamental conflict in Palestine between Zionism and Palestinian-Arab national rights.

The promise of the Oslo accord was its assertion (we thought) of equality for Palestinians and Israelis, with the Palestinians willing to achieve their rights in a gradual manner. The time has come to force the issue, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) seems willing to do this. The principle has to be established that the Israelis must withdraw from all the occupied lands, and in withdrawing they have to assert the reality that Palestinians and Israelis have equal right to their national lands and identities — not that Israel's rights come first at every step of the way. In return, Israelis will enjoy the recognition, coexistence and security guarantees they claim to seek — and that the Arab World is willing to give them.

If Israelis are worried that withdrawal will lead to attacks against them, they should have pondered and acted upon this dilemma during the past quarter of a century, during which they have occupied and colonised Palestinian and other Arab lands. Placing Israeli security above Palestinian rights will only bring further deadlock and more violence. Holding Palestinian national dignity hostage to Israeli security fears will only aggravate Israel's insecurity and heighten the desperation of Palestinians who already have plenty of reasons to hate Israelis.

The point of the Oslo process (we thought) was to replace fear and hatred with respect and coexistence. That is still possible, and desirable; but it will only happen after Israelis go through a gut-wrenching reasse

they are and what they want in this region. We've been telling this to the Israelis for many decades, but the message does not seem to have gotten through.

There is no shame in the PLO pausing in the peace

process and regrouping. This would be a good moment for Yasser Arafat to consolidate his position as the leader of the Palestinians, which he can only do with any credibility if he brings Hamas, independent, Islamists and other Palestinian nationalists into a unified national leadership that is prepared to see the negotiating process through to a successful conclusion. This will not be easy, but it strikes me as imperative, erspecially as the really tough bargaining is ahead of us, on issues such as Jerusalem, settlements, refugees, and borders.

If the only pressure the Palestinians can exert on Israel now is the negative pressure of suspending the talks, then so be it. Those of us who supported and still support the peace talks have done so on the principle that a phased process of national restitution is honourable and desirable. What we have seen in the last 17 months is something very different. We have seen a continuing Israeli attitude of superiority and racism against Palestinians, which has bred considerable anger and humiliation among Palestinians and most other Arabs. Nobody can say that the Oslo process was not given a fair chance to succeed.

There comes a moment when the Palestinian leadership must recognise whether its approach is working or floundering, and it seems to be floundering these days. The answer is not more unilateral concessions and grovelling before Zionist power, but rather a consolidation of Palestinian national unity, a rejuvenation of pan-Arab ties with those many Arabs who share such sentiments, and a relaunching of the peace process on more equitable

The vast majority of Palestinians would support such a move, and the political negotiating position of the Palestinian leadership would be immeasurably strengthened by it. This would be taken by Israel as a threat and a challenge. which is precisely how it should be presented to them. It's about time they were forced to respond to such postures, and it's about time the Palestinian leadership adopted one.

The crisis in Somalia

Conflict between factions

among the male youth

traumatised and disoriented

by years of chaos and con-

flict) on account of his chal-

lenge to the Americans. He

By Tom Porteous

WHEN THE U.N. leaves Somalia, it will leave a country hardly better off than the one it found when it arrived. The pockets of starvation in the interriverain regions of Bai, Gedio and Juba (the images of which on the West's T.V. did so much to precipitate the international intervention) have been eliminated indeed it would have been extraordinary if they had not. But the political instability which led to those famines has hardly been corrected - indeed there are many Somalis who believe that the U.N. has merely complicated matters, by channelling funds and political legitimacy to the faction and militia leaders and by encouraging clan rivalries over access to aid and to U.N. contracts

Certainly it is difficult to see how the Somalis can establish peace in their country after the U.N.'s exit without another serious round of fighting. It is true that there exists a strong movement for peace at the grass roots, where the effects of war and economic devastation are most keenly felt. It is equally true that there are leaders - some clan elders and intellectuals - who are sensitive to the needs of the grass roots and who are ready to represent this trends. But they are powerless against the arms of the militia leaders who are still very much in control. Although at some point these leaders will have to respond to demands from their clansmen for peace, for the time being their interests lie in continuing the war and instability from which they derive their power and their in-

The rivalry between, on the one hand, General Aideed's SNA and the coalition of factions he has orchestrated around it and on the other, Ali Mahdi Mohammad's Somali Salvation Alliance (SSA), will continue to dominate the struggle for power in Somalia for some time to come. It is largely UNOSOM's failure to get these two alliances to agree to an overall peace deal and a national government which has prompted the U.N. to pull out and it is hard to see how they will reach an agreement when the U.N.

Aideed's coalition

General Aideed has been skillful in building up his coalition of faction leaders by encouraging prominent members of factions opposed to the SNA to defect to his side and by forging alliances with weak local leaders like General Mohammad Said Hersi Morgan in Kismayo. Building on this network of fra-

gile alliance. Gen. Aideed has spent the past months trying to cobble together a national government along federal lines which, by including these defectors, can nominally be said to include representatives of all the clan. But Aideed's real power base remains that of any local faction leader: Namely his own sub-clan. His only pretence to national leadership is based on the popularity he won in some quarters (particularly

also wins from the desperation of many Somalis for any kind of government, even a dictatorship of warlords, as long as it can provide peace and order. However, any government of faction leaders cobbled together by Gen. Aideed would have no mandate, and would be little more than a junta of men like himself (Colonel Ahmad Omar Jess. General Mohammad Said Mersi Morgan, Colonel Abdullahi Yousef Ahmad. Abdul Rahman Ali Tour, Mohammad Qanyare Afrah are among those named as possible "ministers") - self regarding, corrupt and often cruel militia bosses with at least as many enemies as friends, who cannot even always guarantee the

them the prospect of the spoils of battle. Any such cobbling together of a national government by Gen. Aideed may be nodded at by the U.N. as a last-ditch facesaver before the peacekeepers leave. But without the acquiescence of Ali Mahdi's SSA, it would be little more than a declaration of war against Gen. Aideed's many opponents.

lovalty of their own militias

without dangling before

Growing instability

There are tell-tale signs that such a conflict is already brewing. Gen. Aideed has long been trying to undermine the government in Somaliland, the northern half of the country, briefly ruled by Britain, which unilaterally declared its secession in 1991 and which in the past one and a half years had done more than the rest of the country to establish peace and demobilise its society. With the approval of UNOSOM. Gen. Aideed has fomented clan divisions there by trying to bring Abdul Rahman Tour into his national peace deal. Mr. Tour is nominally chairman of the Somali National Movement (SNM), which was the main faction in the north but which the elders deliberatedismantled when they established the present administration in Somaliland in 1993. Gen. Aideed's resurrection of Mr. Tour

and the SNM was what was behind the fighting in Hargeisa in November between two set clans of the Isaaq clan and there are indications that may be more to come.

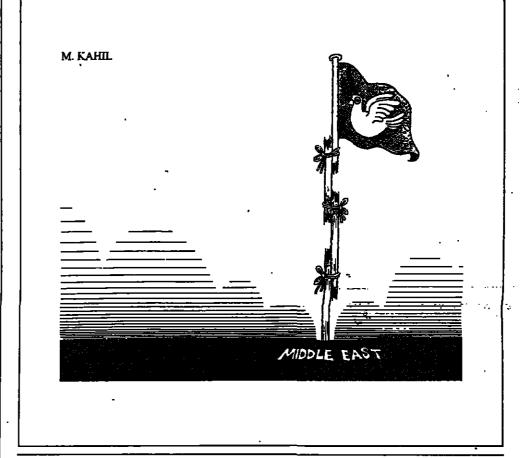
Another region where instability has been growing is the Juba Valley, which saw some of the worst fighting following the fall of Siad Barre. There the situation is complex in the extreme and exacerbated by the prospect of the return from Kenya of many refugees belonging to the Darod clans who fled the anti-Darod purges which followed the fall of Mr. Barre (himself from the Marehan, a Darod clan). Over the summer there was fighting between the Awlihan (a Darod clan) and supporters of the SNA over territory in the Juba Valley. There has also been tension within the Awlihan clan between sub-clan supporters of Omar Jess (who is a close ally of Gen. Aideed) and those who support the idea of a pan-Darod alliance including General Morgan (Majerteen clan) - who controls Kismavo — and the Marehan-based Somalia National Front (SNF) which controls much of the upper Juba in the Gedo

region.
But the main tinderbox is Mogadishu itself, where attempts by the U.N. to reconcile the opposing clans of the Hawiye tribe have persistently failed and where the combination of U.N. withdrawal and a declaration of a one-sided Aideed government is likely to lead to another round of fighting within the Hawiye between Gen. Aideed's Har Gedir clan and Ali Mahdi's Abgal. with other Hawiye clans joining in according to their political affiliations and interests.

However in the medium and longer term, left to their own devices, the Somalis may well be forced to reach a settlement after the peacekeepers leave. Not only will there be less money around to buy arms, but, more importantly, the tribal political structures (which often function in democratic ways) will force their leaders to take a more responsible line. And traditional mechanisms — tried and tested over centuries exist for the removal of sources of tension and the resolution of conflicts. Such mechanisms function far more effectively without the interference of outsiders who cannot understand the subtleties of clan politics. The question is whether another humanitarian disaster and images of it on Western T.V. provoke a return of the foreign agencies before these mechan-

Middle East International

isms can be a given chance



Israel has to honour its commitments to Palestinians

By Pascal B. Karmy

NOTWITHSTANDING THE suicidal acts of frustrated Palestinian individuals, for which the Palestine National Authority (PNA) is not responsible, Israel must honour its commitments in the Oslo accord of September 1993 and the Cairo accord of May 1994. The closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip does not solve any problem; it only aggravates or com-pounds the situation. When the Israeli army was in Gaza Strip, and despite its presence now in the West Bank, it could not prevent or preempt suicidal acts against whether in those areas or in Israel itself.

What solves the Palestinian problem and prevents suicidal acts, which result from desperation, is the true and sincere implementation by Israel of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel accords. It is now incumbent upon Israel to carry out the second phase of the Oslo accord, namely the redeployment of its army in the West Bank so as to enable the Palestinians to hold elections for the Palestine council freely and democratically as required under Article XIII of the accord.

But Israel has not redeployed its army and thus did not enable the PNA to prepare for the elections. which should have taken place about seven months ago. In effect, Israel is acting contrary to the letter and spirit of the accords with the Palestinians. Thus, according to the latest statistics, Israel has confiscated or expropriated, since the date of the Osio accord,

about 30,000 dunoms from

built more than 17,000 housing units. Israel's policy appears to be still bent on having peace while keeping most of the Palestinian territory, or, rather, what is left of it. It aspires for peace with the Palestinians but at the same time wishes to retain all the benefits of peace, leaving trifle benefits to the Palesti-

This Israeli equation applies particularly to the West Bank and to Jerusalem and its suburbs. It is already estimated that Israel appropriated 60 per cent of the West Bank since its occupation in 1967. Israel is expanding what is called greater Jerusalem by expanding it at the expense of Palestinian lands. A recent report submit-

ted to the United Nations states that the conduct of the Israeli army towards the Palestinians has not changed despite Israel's agreements with the PLO. Israel still carries out arbitrary detentions, seals the doors of the houses of suspected persons or destroys their houses, builds more settlements or expands them, and consumes most of the water. Moreover, the report adds, Palestinian detainees are being jailed in most difficult conditions, especially in Ansar Camp in the Negeb desert.

Israel must realise that, thanks to the Oslo accord and the subsequent Jordan-Israel agreement, many avenues have been opened for Israel to participate in Middle Eastern summits, and in economic ventures. Also, the Arab boycott has been eased, and some African and Asian states, which had severed diplomatic re1967 war, bave now renewed those relations.

In his recently published book "The New Middle East," Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres sug-gests bilateral and multilateral projects such as the desalination of water, irrigation projects to be carned out by a consortium of states with huge capital, such as the Red Sea-Dead Sea Canal and development of hydroelectric powers.

Thus, without those agreements mentioned above. Israel could not have earned the benefits of peace and stability in the neighbourhood and could not have been able to participate in regional projects, nor could it have been accepted by the Middle East and other African and Asian states.

The Washington meeting beld on Feb. 12 by the foreign ministers of the USA-Jordan-Egypt-Israel and a PLO representative, has reaffirmed both Israel's and the PLO's "strong commitment to honour those agreements aiready concluded in letter and spirit and to accelerate negotia-tions on all tracks." It does not seem that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, after his meeting with PLO leader Yasser Arafat on Feb. 16, is willing to accelerate negotiations forthe implementation of the second phase of the Oslo accord, despite the Washington communiqué issued after the abovementioned meeting. This second phase should be implemented as quickly as possible so as to keep up the momentum of peace and save the peace process from collapse.

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Feature

WHAT HAPPENS after a 20-second calamity brings death, injury, destruction and prolonged suffering to a proud and prosperous Japanese city?

The Old Testament would decree much grief and lamentation among survivours. Karl Marx would doubtless prophesy despair mrning to egitation and rewit. A month to the morning after the Great Hanshin Earthquake struck Kobe, one can instead only marvel at the extra-ordinary resilience of its social fabric with so much else crushed, rent

gpart, cindered. In Kobe and the surrounding region, 5,372 people were killed by the quake, 26,815 were injured, and 215,000 are still living in shelters, many hoping their numbers will be picked on the next "lottery" for temporary housing. Aged refugees are in-

creasingly falling victim to stress, malnourishment and discomfort. Fifty people have died recently from "quake-related ailments". Most households remain without a gas supply, and large tracts of Kobe have no water other than that delivered by army or municipal

Once demolition is completed and the city is rebuilt on a timetable and budget that no one can yet foresee — deep psychological scars must still be healed. Nevertheless, social workers have been greaty impressed by how the peo-ple of Kobe have handled this crisis.

The earthquake has been a great social leveller in a aty best known for its old money, high society, cosmopolitanism and fashion consciousness. Where shops and restaurants are open, they display special

Controversy se

parked by their visit."

Our stand was and still said. "We have never ittered a word against Jordan and the Syrians were also careful not to." Syrian Vice President

Abdul Halim Khaddam iold the Jordanian team that President Hafez Al Assad did not meet with the Jordanian opposition parties because "he was careful not to do anything that might influence Jordanian-Syrian rela-

'Israelis do

three laws will open the door wide for Zionist invasion, colonisation and eco-Romic domination," the statement contended. The cancellation of the laws will also allow (Israel) to control and dominate all our abilities and resources and our security because (Israel) possesses the financial, economic and technological advances that are

supported by the "It will also allow Israel to build colonies all over lordan through buying real estate, land and factories, companies, hotels etc.' added the statement.

It said the high density of population in Israel and the continuing migration of lews to that country would result in Jewish migration to Jordan in the absence of the law that prohibits the sale of land and dealings

PLO leadership me

(Continued from page from there and we take it from there, and we take it AP. Mr. Dromi told haggling

Yedioth Ahronoth said Monday that under the sationed in towns taken over by the PLO would remain in by the PLO would remain in

An Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymy said the security arrange-hents still needed to be istaclic had needed the Israelis had promised the latestinians that the army This could mean the solutions stayed in their bases or diets stayed in their bases or city, said the official.

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The earthquake has been a great social leveller in a city best known for its old money, high society, cos-mopolitanism and fashion consciousness. Where shops and restaurants are open, they display special

cheap prices, or signs saying

In the exclusive hilly district of Kitano ward, where there are many old foreign houses, boutiques and luxury apartment blocks, there are resentful mutterings about the sudden exodus of

of solidarity and community care is at least chastening to a visitor from Tokyo.

The dignity of Kobe citizens is uplifting to

Near Takatori Station, in the middle of this devastation, a couple dig with a shovel in a section of rubble marked off by white string. Yoshihiro Honda explains that the string marks the land of his former house which he has just registered with the ward office, all land registration documents having been destroyed. His house survived the quake only to be engulfed by fire. The whole morning we

"We Love Kobe

Club, known to Japanese in the city as the "Gaijin" (foreigners) Club, the management has wisely decided to take in refugees from the neighbourhood and offer cut-price meals to non-members. How genuine and lasting is the expression of pious compassion for the quake victims and underprivileged of Kobe it is difficult to know, but the spirit

observe. Take the Japan Railways train on a short stretch of reopened line that runs through the working-class Nagata ward and all you see on either side is what appears to be an archive photograph of the fire-bombing of Japanese cities in 1945, a blasted vista of scorched earth, blackened buildings, twisted machinery from the

wealthy Indian traders. At the 125-year old Kobe

shoe factories, wrecked

didn't see a fire engine, and



A Nishinomiya hillside covered with top pled gravestones, one result of last month's Japanese earthquake

Resilience shines through the rubble of Kobe

when they arrived, they had no water.

Now they want "to borrow as much money as possible" to recalle on the same plot, sharing the house with their married son. "It will be in his name. I'm too old," Mr. Herda

His job is at the damaged shipbuilding works of Kawasaki Heavy Industries, which employs about 1,200 — no one has been laid-off or sacked. It has given him and his wife a temporary place to stay. "I

feel lucky to have a place to live in a company dormi-tory," he says. "Some people are still in tents.

In front of a gutted build-

ing that once housed several small shoe factories, Harukumi Kimoto and some of his employees are piling up feit shoe templates and fluorescent light fittings from what is left of his workshop, while grilling sweet potatoes on an open brazier. Behind them, the way is blocked by a collapsed building. A smell of burning rubber assails the

nostrils. A bizarre street party is in session. Take me to England, I'll wash your clothes," one of the women cackles.

Mr. Kimoto cheerfully explains that he intends to reopea his factory and give work to his staff, though he "can't afferd to think right now" where the money will come from.

Yasunobu Kawase, hobbling with a stick from quake injuries. peddles 'shoe accessories" from a makeshift shop in a car park. The front and back

wais of the building where he and his wife lived on the third floor fell away in the quake, and the structure looks like a doll's house. "See that bed up there, that's where my wife was sleeping, he points. Now he lives with his son, who

rescued them. One of the few thriving neighbourhood businesses is the undertakers, its fleet of black limousines unscathed and drivers at the ready for the next funeral. Around the corner a man is climbing down a ladder from his bedroom, carrying a few possessions. The ground floor had collapsed, crushing the white Toyota in his garage.

From another alley blocked with rubble, an elderly man emerges with a television set from his flattened home. "It can be repaired," he says. Life is not so bad in the primary school where he spends the nights. "Now we have showers, and I'm lucky -no children.

In the nearby New Bank cafe, chunks of broken con-

Romanians, Thais, Israel's

crete dangle from wires. There is no running water or electricity, but the neighbourhood wives are in fine spirits, eating dainty biscuits and sipping coffee brewed on a camping stove. Ali is cosy until a large lorry numbles past, laden with rubble. The buildings shakes, and one woman lets out a scream. "I thought it was another quake," she explains with embarrass-

The Independent

Controversy seems to be settled

sparked by their visit." 'Our stand was and still is very clear," Dr. Zayadin said. "We have never uttered a word against Jordan and the Syrians were

also careful not to.' Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam told the Jordanian team that President Hafez Al Assad did not meet with the Jordanian opposition parties because "he was careful not to do anything that might influence Jordanian-Syrian relations," according to Dr.

But Mr. Khaddam said Syria had tried several times to unify its stand with Jordan but failed. According to Mr. Zibri, Mr. Khaddam contended that Jordan did not respect its agreements with Syria and acted unilaterally in making peace with Israel.

In a meeting last week with representatives of the foreign press, His Majesty King Hussein had said the political parties' visit to

Syria will be looked into. Islamic Deputy Abdullah Akaileh said a heated discussion took place during the Sunday meeting but party leaders agreed that there should not be any infringement on the law or

Dr. Akaileh, a member of the executive bureau of the Islamic Action Front party, which declined the Syrian invitation, said the agenda also included important issues such as the election law, the redivision of governorates, the introduction of new measures to

on Jordan.

ties' budgets and the dissolution of some parties that have less than 50 mem-Mr. Hammad called on political party leaders to present their parties'

budgets to the ministry as

stipulated by the law. He

set March 15 as their dead-

facilitate procedures during

elections, the political par-

Governorates will be redefined and divided into districts to implement the decentralisation policy, the minister said. Also, registration procedures will be facilitated and the ballot committee and the vote-

door for Zionists to buy our

public and Jordan's future

bility as representatives of

legislative power - do not

be the builders of Zionist

economic invasion or col-

onisation of Jordan," the

statement went on to say.

danger of the Zionist

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Zionist ideology which they

have implemented in Pales-

tine. Do not allow them to

"You know very well the

"In the interest of our

which is your responsi-

land and colonise us.

counting committee will be unified in one. The minister also prop-

osed that the registration for voting be extended from 45 days to five or six have special cards that carry their national number.

"We didn't give our response to the minister's proposals," Mr. Zibri said. We didn't even discuss the law in substance or the number of constituencies and the number of deputies per districts. There has been no mention of changing voters' age from 19 to 18 which is against the Constitution itself."

ist Party; the People's

Democratic Party, the Jor-

dan Communist Party, the

Jordan Democratic Party,

the Jordan People's Unity

Party, the Party for Prog-

ress and Democracy in Jor-

dan, the Arab Baathist

Progressive Party, the

Jordanian and Arab Con-

Mohammad Dweib, an

independent member of

Parliament and former

minister, rejected the call

and said there should not

be any question over Jor-

dan fulfilling its obligations

"The repeal of the laws is

a part of the peace treaty.

and I don't see why there

should be any question over Jordan meeting its

commitments under the

treaty," Mr. Dweib told

under the treaty.

the Jordan Times.

stitutional Front Party.

By Danny Gur-Arieh Reuter

TEL AVIV — Doru Plesa poured concrete at an Israeli construction site for eight months, sending the money he made to his family in Romania.

Now, he's stuck. One of thousands of foreigners from Eastern Europe and Asia brought to Israel to replace Palestinians as the Jewish state's cheap labour force, Mr. Plesa has not received a salary in more than two months. "I came here to work

hard, to make money and to go home. I don't want pity. I just want what I carned. Without the money, I can't go home,'

His employer hired 300 foreigners to build 74 apartments in under a year in an affluent Tel Aviv suburb. The construction company went bankrupt and the workers, living in crowded, leaky bungalows near the building site, were left holding worhtless work con-

"We've seen this over and over," said Hana Zohar, director of a workers'_rights group in Israel. "Employers don't pay the foreign workers for a

month or two. They say they have no money. Then they tell authorities the workers are no longer in their employment and they get deported," she said.

autonomy accords.

it forward.

The Palestinian leader said the PLO was still committed to the current negotiations.

new cheap labour force Israel first approved bringing in a few thousand foreign workers in 1993 when Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government imposed an extended closure on the occupied West

> The closure prevented thousands of Palestinians from making their living in Israel and denied Israeli contractors, farmers and retaurant-owners access to long-available cheap labour.

Bank and Gaza Strip, home

to around two million

Palestinians.

"From the outset. I was against this," said Labour and Social Affair Minister Ora Namir. "I knew it would pose problems. Look at their living conditions. It's embarrassing."

Palestinian guerrilla attacks, including a January 22 suicide bombing in which 21 Israelis were killed, have spawned repeated closures and the number of Eastern Europeans and Asians working in Israel has swelled to 60,000.

"Unfortunately, that figure will rise. It's a result of the government's goal to physically separate Israelis and Palestinians," said Mr.

Namir. Israeli officials say the. country's tough labour laws on minimum wage, work hours and employment conditions apply to foreign workers but are more difficult to enforce when workers do not speak the language and do not know the

Kibbutz Shfavim, a communal farm on Israel's Mediterannean coastline employing workers from Thailand, asked Thai embassy officials to intervene when two workers demanded extra pay for overtime hours, a resident of the

Kibbutz said. "The embassy official came to the Kibbutz and ordered the two to pack their bags and leave the country," said Amos Gvirtz.

In other cases, employers have hired private security companies to force workers to leave the country.

"In one case a company owed a Romanian worker

pay. They had security people dressed in blue - to the workers they looked like policemen - actually put him on the plane before we and others intervened."

Mr. Zohar said. Israeli employers entice the workers in their home countries with promises to fly them to Israel, house them, provide them with medical insurance and pay monthly salaries of up to S600.

But pay slips show the employers deduct insurance payments and the cost of the airfare in monthly instalments. The foreigners, working 50 to 60 hours a week, end up with half the salary they were promised.

Mr. Plesa says his employer also deducted a "security deposit" every month to ensure he does not leave for work elsewhere. All together, he says, his employer owes him \$2,700.

"They'll get some of that money, maybe a few hun-dred dollars, but it will take time," said attorney Shaul Bergerzon who has taken over receivership of the construction company.

Romanian embassy officials in Israel have complained about treatment of foreign workers and authorities have begun cracking down on employers, handing out \$850 fines for each

violation of labour laws. But Oren Karni, head of the government department charged with enforcing labour laws, said the fines do not always deter.

'We're talking about large profits for employers and middlemen. Sometimes they factor in the cost of an occasional fine and still come out ahead. If we could impose a prison sentence on these people, even a short one, the violations would cease." he said.

Mr. Rabin's government announced recently it would allow another 5,000 foreigners to work in Israel. Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer is considering asking the cabinet to approve 20,000 additional positions.

"It's getting to the point where even if the closure is lifted, Palestinians may not find work," said Mr.

'Israelis do not own land'

(Continued from page 1)

three laws will open the door wide for Zionist invasion, colonisation and economic domination," statement contended. The cancellation of the laws "will also allow (Israel) to control and dominate all our abilities and resources and our security because (Israel) possesses the financial, economic and technological advances that are also supported by the

"It will also allow Israel to build colonies all over Jordan through buying real estate, land and factories. companies, hotels etc.

added the statement. It said the high density of population in Israel and the continuing migration of Jews to that country would result in Jewish migration to Jordan in the absence of the law that prohibits the sale of land and dealings with Israel.

The statement referred to what it said were the words of Israeli Likud leader Benyamin Netanyahu to the Knesset (Israeli parliament) in the presence of U.S. President Bill Clinton in October. It quoted Mr. Netanyahu as saying that we will go through Jordan across the bridges of peace but our eyes on Moab and Jalad." (the Madaba re-

gion). Another point cited by the opposition in its push against the proposed repeal of the laws is that "it will contradict the Arab League's decision which obligate (the League's) members to boycott Israel and the companies that

deal with Israel. "It will also mean inviting our people to deal with Israel and allowing the sale of real estate to Israel at a

time when (the Jewish state) is occupying Palestinian. Syrian and South Lebanese territory, is continuing the Judaisation of Jerusalem, building settlements, detaining thousands of Palestinians and Arabs in its jail and ignoring the legitimate rights of the Palestinians," the statement said.

"Can we in Jordan turn the enemy into a friend and deal with it as we deal with a Jordanian or Arab citizen, and open the door for it to invade us from the inside and also own our land, our trade, information, security and indus-

try?" the statement asked. "We appeal to you, our brothers in Parliament, to reject the draft motion completely so that your council will not be held

responsible for opening the

implement a second Balfour declaration in Jor-

The statement was signed by the Jordan Arab

Baath Socialist Party; the Islamic Action Front: the National Action Front: the Jordan Democratic Social-

ciples from A to Z."

Tuesday in Cairo. An Isareli foreign ministry spokesman said election campaigning was also on the agenda.

to meet for two rounds of talks each month, he added.

Surani charged. "The only subject on the current agenda of the negotiations is Israel's security. According to the PLO

office in Cairo, at least 10 out of the 18 committee members are expected to attend Tuesday's meeting, which needs nine members to attend for a

held in November in Gaza. Mr. Arafat chairs the com-

mittee, which is the highest executive body for all Palestinians both in the territories and in exile and groups all Palestinian factions except the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the Isia-

Two of the committee members have resigned and four have suspended their participation in protest at the

Independent member Abdullah Hurani also poured scorn on the idea. "It's two years since Arafat has had any contact, even by telephone, with several of the committee members," he

Another independent member in Amman, Elia Khouri, said he would take part because it was a "national and pan-Arab duty ... at such a crucial juncture."

In Paris, Mr. Arafat said the peace process had reached an impasse and called for outside help to move

\$1,400 but didn't want to

onour its alestinian and have the - page those relation

HE EAST

r ms recently The New Met Samon Poss n lateral and m project aches tion of F# - noners to be The second of a constitution with huge we the Red Seale Caral and decouple - with the posts --- without the ents menter Israel compl and the tenent and stability in the outrood and or

that he had a second property of the had a se Agrandates - Washington Beer on Feb. 12 by B ritinisters of the conduction of ordan-Egyprasides of the control of to none of the control of the contro accelerate like and tracks and tracks that Israeli has a recent that Israeli has a recent with the recent and the regulation of the tracks of the track of the tr

momentum of process

collapse.

their bases. despite commune about the first consider meaning less and the should be shou Palestinians that the army would retain a "low profile." momentum of par

(Continued from page 1)

ments there and we take it from there," Mr. Dromi told

Yedioth Ahronoth said Monday that under the Israeli proposal, the troops stationed in towns taken over by the PLO would remain in began on Sunday lifting the closure imposed last month

An Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the security arrangements still needed to be negotiated. But he said the Israelis had promised the

This could mean the soldiers stayed in their bases or around the perimeter of the city, said the official.

PLO leadership meets today

"I believe that after some haggling we will reach an agreement," he said. Israel on Monday further eased a closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, letting in about 2,000 Palestinian workers from the West Bank and 1,000 from Gaza. Israel

after suicide bombers killed 21 Israelis in Israel. Mr. Surani said in Cairo the committee would rethink the whole of the peace process and draw up a new programme for peace.

Mr. Arafat was due to ar-

rive in Cairo on Tuesday via

Tunis from Paris.

When asked late Sunday by French television France 2, if he was considering calling off the peace talks, Mr. Arafat said: "No. No."

The Israeli foreign ministry also denied there was any 'special crisis" in the talks. "We know there is some amount of opposition among the Palestinians, not necessarily to the whole process but to the way it is being

said. Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid told AFP, "Negotiations with the Palestinians really are on the right track."

Things are going to get

better day by day," predicted

Mr. Sarid, who met Mr. Ara-

fat in Paris at the weekend.

This government will imple-

handled now," a spokesman

ment the declaration of prin-A new round of Israeli-PLO talks on holding Palestinian elections to a self-rule council is also to be held on

The two sides had agreed

"Everything is deadlocked. We are no longer talking about the Israeli-Palestinian peace accords, nor the redeployment of the Israeli army,

nor the settlements," Mr.

guorum. Mr. Arafat would "probably be accompanied" by both Mahamoud Abbas and Farouk Kaddoumi, who boycotted the last meeting

mic Jihad.

EU ministers agree to continue EMU preparations

pean Union (EU) finance ministers agreed Monday that technical preparations for the single currency could continue although some warned of the danger of leav-ing politics and economics

out of the equation. "I continue to believe that it will not be a practical proposition for any member state to enter into the third stage of economic and monetary before 1999 at the earliest...

But that said I agree that the technical preparations thould go ahead," British Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke told his colthe coming the opening,

European Commission atident launues Sasnter The large by June a conagreen paper on the 1 21. 25 ceets of the single currency to 1 he presented to ា ាំ ក្បាំព្រះsters and and the summit in

in it is to prepare the that we introduce to a lagar rumency." ne said. treaty all the technical reputations have to be inand by the end of 1996 in and the requisite majority of member states are ready merge their currencies in

The ministers broadly welimed the green paper, hough Luxembourg, Bri-Lin and Germany all stressed that the key was getting the

MCCSIA (AFP) — The

enstern Mediterranean island

: Cyprus, bolstered by a

the challenge of its cam-

aign to join the European

With a per capita gross national product (GNP) of \$12,000 — higher than

Greece or Portugal, around

the same level as Ireland —

and unemployment of under

two per cent, its application

Cypriot sectors since Turksih

troops invaded the northern

Negotiations for Cyprus to

ioin are expected to start

after 1996, under a deal link-

ed to an EU customs union

with Turkey that has so far

been vetoed by Greece which

wants a firm date for acces-

The Greek-Cypriots, who

number 635,000, have set up

third of Cyprus in 1974.

Jnion (EÚ).

BRUSSELS (R) — Euro- bloc's economies — and particularly national finances and unemployment -- back under control.

"We need to take a careful look at all the technical and political problems so we don't simply treat this as a technical matter," Luxembourg Prime Minister and Finance minister Jean Claude Juncker said.

Mr. Santer also told the ministers that the commission intended to try to clear up a raft of indirect tax matters left over from last year, including deciding whether to levy value added tax at origin or destination, excise duties on alcohol and fuel and a voluntary framework for a carbon dioxide tax.

He added that the commission would emphasise the need to combat fraud against the bloc's 81-billion-European Currency Unit (\$100-billion) annual budget - a declaration that was applauded by all the minis-

Anti-Fraud Commissioner Anita Gradin gave the meeting a run down of the commission's detailed fraudfighting plans. The ministers also discus-

sed national plans to stop the steady bleeding from the The ministers also laid the groundwork for a meeting next month with their counterparts from Poland, Hun-

gary, Romania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Slova-

kia, before adjourning for

service industry and centred

on tourism, which brought in

\$1.8 billion last year, or 21

per cent of GNP and 40 per

cent of foreign currency earn-

More than half of the 2.1

Iraq oil project costs to exceed \$10 may block Gulf billion — MEES

velopment and repair of Iraqi isting oil production and exoil installations, for which port capacity - to be paid Baghdad is seeking the help for, of course, through oil of foreign companies, could exceed \$10 billion, the Middeliveries - will have to be Iraq's number one priority in dle East Economic Survey the post-sanctions era," it (MEES) reported Monday.

MEES said negotiations The newsletter said foreign have been held with a score mainly European, companies of companies, the most advthat had been negotiating for anced being with France's Societe Nationale ELFthe development of new oilfields had recently sent tech-Aquitaine and Total S.A. for nical teams to Iraq at the government's invitation to the Majnoon and Nahr Umar fields, Russias's Lukoil for assess the extent of Gulf war the West Qurna field and The idea is to move quickly Italy's AGIP for the Nasironce U.N. sanctions imposed for Iraq's 1990 invasion of

iyah field.

It said it understood the total cost of developing these four new giant fields and the rehabilitation of the destroyed facilities in southern

Iraq was around \$10 billion. Facilities were also damaged in northern Iraq, particularly a pump station north of Kirkuk which serviced the Iraqi-Turkey export pipeline. This was largely responsible for reducing the pipeline's capability to one million b/d from 1.6 million.

Official Iraqi media re-ported on Feb. 13 that President Saddam Hussein chaired cabinet session which made a preliminary review of applications by some Western companies seeking long-term oil exploration and production contracts.

And deals, when signed, may not be implemented until after the sanctions are lifted. Due to resistance by the United States, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, there is no certainty of when this will be.

Low oil prices capacity expansion

ABU DHABI (AFP) - Low crude prices caused by oversupply and proposals from industrial countries for new energy taxes have revived fears of a block to further Gulf capacity expansion pro-

The oil ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which controls 45 per cent of the world's crude reserves and one fifth of the production, voiced their concern at a

meeting in Riyadh. They discussed the oil market situation and highlighted a surplus caused by excess output by producers outside the 12-nation Organistion of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), according to GCC assistant secretary eneral for economic affairs. Abdullah Al Quwaiz.

"During the meeting, there was a feeling that the current situation, in which there is excess supply and a proposal for increasing energy taxes, does not encourage investment in projects to raise capacity," Mr. Quwaiz said after Saturday's meeting.

Most Gulf states have launched projects to boost their crude production capacity to face world demand, which is projected to grow by nearly 10 million barrels per day (b/d) by 2000.

Optimistic forecasts have projected demand to surge to nning smoothly. million b/d by 2020 from

56 million b/d in 1990. Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter and producer, will reach around 10 miltion b/d this year from 9.6 million b/d in 1993. Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will also exceed 2.5 million b/d each. The projects have cost bil-

tions of dollars while more funds are needed to carry out further expansions until 2000. Independent estimates have put total costs of oil expansion projects in the

According to the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC); initial expansion plans by Saudi Arabia will increase its capacity to 12 million in 2000 hile it will rise to 3.5 million b/d in Kuwait and 3.2 million

b/d in the UAE. The other members -Oman, Bahrain and Qatar --are relatively small producers with a combined output of 1.2 million b/d.

Experts said capacity expansions in the region were essential to stave off a future world supply crisis as the GCC plus fran and Iraq own more than 60 per cent of the world's crude reserves of around one trillion barrels.

"More than 80 per cent of the increase in demand is supposed to be met by those Gulf producers. Any delay in expansion projects could cause a supply disruption as production is receding in other countries," one expert

Financial hardships caused by oil prices have forced some Gulf states to consider readmitting foreign oil partners they kicked out a few decades ago to secure funds and technology for capacity

expansion projects.

The UAE is the only exception in the region as it has retained those partners and its expansion projects are

Prices have remained nearly \$4 below OPEC's minimum target of \$21 because of overproduction by some OPEC members and other oil exporters, especially North Sea producers Britain and Norway. There are also plans hy Norway to boost output, a move that has already caused

concern in the Gulf. The decision by some producers outside OPEC. mainly Norway, to increase oil output is catastropohic.' Qatari Oil Minister Abdullah

Italian budget ready, needed to calm market fears

ter Lamberto Dini's nonpartisan government has promised to unveil its key mini-budget later this week, a package seen as vital to restoring confidence in Italy's beleaguered markets.

Mr. Dini's office moved swiftly over the weekend to try to allay investor alarm after the lira's recent haemorrhage against the mighty Germany mark, saying the budget had been completed and the government was committed to reforming the state's finances.

The new measures are expected to bring in up to 20 trillion lire (\$12.5 billion) as the treasury struggles to meet its 1995 deficit targets, with the emphasis placed firmly on a series of potentially unpopular tax hikes.

Some parties in Italy's fractions parliament have already said they might oppose the budget, predicted to include higher levies on petrol, but Mr. Dim has warned of dire consequences if anyone tries to stop the bill.

"It would be criminal to block it. I don't say this for my sake or for the sake of my government, but for the Itaeconomy, the currency and the country," Mr. Dini said in an interview with La Repubblica newspaper Satur-

Anyone blocking it would assume a dramatic responsibility and I can't believe anyone would dare do it," he

added. Mr. Dini's rebuke came after former Prime Minister Silvio Berlasconi was widely quoted as saying his centreright Freedom Alliance would only accept the budget if it received guarantees of early general elections in

are in contact with today.

improve your outward appea

politician Berlusconi Sunday denied he had ever made such a connection and bitterly rejected any charges that he was acting irrresponsibly. "We regard the minibudget with a sense of re-sponsibility. We want to see it and possibly make some improvements to it. We realise that the country must find a

he told Italian state Last week the Bank of Italy was forced to intervene two days running in the currency market to try and restore calm as the lira tumbled on the exchanges, crashing to a record low of 1,086.75 against the German mark on

way out of its economic cri-

At the back of the market's problems is the country's nge 2,000 trillion lire (\$1.25 trillion) debt mountain — the largest public deficit ion

Mr. Dini said in a statement Saturday the forthcoming budget would stabilise the ratio between the country's debt and its gross domestic product (GDP) — a year head of schedule.

Newspapers have forecast that the package would look to raise some 15 trillion lire (\$9.4 billion) from increases in direct and indirect taxation, while up to five trillion lire (\$3.1 billion) would come from spending cuts.

Former central banker Dini, who was treasury minister in Mr. Berluscom's gov-ernment which collapsed at the end of last year, also pledged to outline measures aimed at speeding through the country's privatisation programme.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY FEBRUARY 21, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a good day to discuss new ideas with business partners. Any delays should be accepted philosophically. Maintain a cheerful manner with all those who you

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Plan your affairs on a more satisfying basis and have more security. A new contact whom you meet today

GEMINE: (May 21 to June 21) Have talks with partners so you can

take advantage of a new situation that has arisen today. Analyse your progress in the evening and stay on top of new things.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Stop putting off tasks at hand and gain more profits. Start those health treatments today and

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Jumpo into regular routines without delay and get much accomplished whether of a business or personal nature to have your utmost success. Get out on the town tonight.

VIRGO: (Angust 22 to September 22) Be willing to compromise at home for the sake of harmony. Study projects today that could give you added income so you can achieve what you want.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Today you are able to get the support of associates for a new project you have in mind. Use extreme care in motion today and try to stay out of trouble.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Analyse your financial status now and find better ways through abundance. Listen to what an expert has to suggest so that you can achieve much success.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A good day to gain the respect of higher ups who can give you the support you need. Many benefits can come your way now if you are persistent.

Birthstone of February: Amethyst — Onyx

could give you suggestions to achieve your objectives.

GCC since 1990 at \$70 bil-Al Atteyya told reporters

This change did not hurt the manufacturing sector,

40-60 per cent, the newspaper said.

Retail sales boomed because people had more leisure, with sales on work-free Saturdays 30 to 50 per cent higher

than on ordinary days, it said. Retail sales in Paijing in 1994 were 67.9 billion yuan (\$8 million), an increase of 13 billion yuan (\$1.54 billion) over

1993, and nationwide spending by domestic tourists was 95 billion yuan (\$11.3 billion) up 10 per cent on 1993, it said. The change also improved the quality of life, giving people more time for cultural and leisure activities and cutting the number of quarrels because people felt less

under stress, it said.

four orginary words. TABEA

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Print answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: ALBUM QUILT POWDER RELISH Answer: Why the haberdasher became such a success — HE WAS WELL-SUITED

Five-day week no longer a dream for Chinese

BELIING (R) - A half-day cut in China's working week has raised productivity, retail sales and the quality of life and a five-day week is no longer a dream, the Economic

February 1994, with people working on alternate Saturdays instead of every week. because industrial productivity rose to 60-80 per cent from

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Go after your aims in a most positive way today and gain excellent results. Strive for increased happiness. Be poised and alert to conditions around you. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Take steps to improve the quality of life today. Let your conversations with others be quiet and cultures so that you can have much happiness. By Glasbergen AQUARTOS: (Jamary 21 to February 19) Sociability is the keynote today and much can be accomplished. You are able to gain a personal aim at this time which will benefit you a great deal.

for membership was approved in 1993. in deposits and the assets of more foreign workers. The second-largest foreign Daily said Monday. the 34 offshore units amount "But Cyprus will receive compensation during the The application is no longer linked to reaching a setto \$2.1 billion. business, which last year raised \$300 million. tlement on the island, divided adjustment period," noted a into Greek and Turkish-

The Cyprus pound, which is protected, will however of EU membership.

rus its competitive edge against other offshore bases such as Dubai in the United

vessels flying the green-yellow-and-white Cypriot flag, raked in another \$10 million.

ANY OTHER WORK AROUND THAT CAN EARN MEAN SATE

///ONEY

an economy based on the Russian offshore companies are attracted by the low rate

> reflects the healthy state of the Cypriot economy. The nine local banks cur-

have to be liberalised in case And foreign businessmen have warned that rises in the

Cypriots. In 1994, the shipping sector, with more than 2,000

"European, American and

of the international auditing firm KPMG. "And they can then repatriate their gains thanks to agreements on avoiding double taxation." The banking sector also

Kuwaiti are removed. The

U.N. Security Council is due

to review the sanctions in

mid-March but no decision is

appears to be that, when

sanctions are removed. Iraq

could reasonably quickly

raise production to around

two million b/d (barrels per

day), with exports in the re-

gion of 1.5 million b/d," it

said. Current production is

estimated by Reuters at about 5 5 0, 0 0 0

"However, it is reckoned

that it would take Iraq at

least three years to restore

production capacity to its pre-August 1990 level of

some 3.5 million b/d." MEES

It said fields have suffered

through lack of maintenance

and pumping installations

and storage facilities both at

the fields and along the ex-

port pipelines were severely

The general consensus

expected then.

million visitors in 1994 were British, followed by Scandinavians, Germans and French tourists. The number of Russian tourists has tripled each year since 1992, with 77,000 visiting in 1994.

More than 17,000 foreign firms are registered, 1,100 of which have fully-fledged offices. The offshore companies employ more than 3,300 foreigners and 2,000

of taxation on profits - 4.25 per cent," said Takis Clerides

rently hold a total of five billion pounds (\$10.5 billion)

cost of living could cost Cyp-

Arab Emirates. Amid the upsurge, agriculture which once formed the backbone of the island's eco-

nomy has taken a beating.

THEN HOW

years economy rises to meet EU challenge With \$100 million, it now accounts for only two per cent of the GNP.

Light industry is also lag-ging behind, weighed down by a pound which trades for more than \$2 and last year it brought in \$3.70 million or five per cent of GNP.

Joining the EU would deprive state coffers of customs revenues and the local mar-. ket would be exposed to European competition and have to open its doors to

European diplomat.

The government of President Glafkos Clerides has been trying to keen inflation at around four per cent and to limit : budget deficit to less than three per cent of GNP, in keeping with terms of the Maastricht treaty.

It has also pledged to cut spending, notably with a freeze on public sector appointments.

THE BETTER HALF, GLASSERGEN

"Hi, this is your wife. To say I look nice today, press one. To say you miss me, press two. To say you can't live without me, press three "

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

WHAT THE

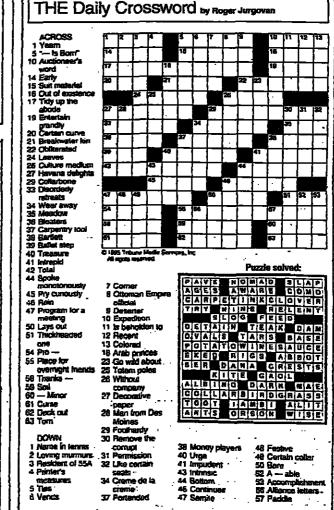
CONVICT WAS IN

THE MIDDLE OF.

Now arrange the circled letters to

form the surprise answer, as sug-gested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)



Peanuts

sion talks.





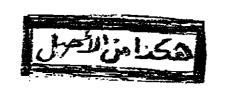








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debt mountain by fig. >
Fig. 1 public defici

Are Most moneychangers

and collect M: Dini taid in a si a company to buy and collect budget would stable the problem of bouncing chemical the many to buy and collect between the most incompany to buy and collect budget would stable the problem of bouncing chemical the most between the most for incufficient funds. and its gross done they say such an entity will chead of schedule.

Mutie' Kabariti, head of Newspapers have

Newspapers have for the Jordanian Moneychanthe package would be gers Association, said he had some 15 million never heard of such a combillion) from billion) from the pany in the region and "there circu and induct is no similar institution anywhile up to five to the world."

Pending cut However, he said, should such a company be established by such a company be estabwho was treasure a big financial company to Berluson: succeed. Noting that it should the below as the should should be below as a big financial company to the below the below as a big financial company to the below t ouring and wen-known that it should be speeding the located close to the city's commercial centre with an information network, Mr. Kabariti pointed out that even with all these facilities such a company would fail within months from beginning its operations.

He explained that

COPE

earche.

moneychangers would cash a foreign cheque if it carries the correct signatures while Jordanian cheques can be cashed from banks without the need for an intermediary

100 diet voor releatives. Abdul Ghani Al Sadat, another moneychanger, welbrien today. Analy comed the idea of setting up a company to buy and collect He said that in-

were coming to the country carrying cheques and, unlike The local make pany would be able to verify pany would be able to verny would be able to verny the authenticity of the checalculate that county ques and whether funds are available against it based on the county of the checalculate the basel wide information nethave it mad towork that the company would

Analyse war fast. Mr. Sadat noted, however, that the proposed companay interest was would not be able to stand on the interest single same and the proposed company would not be able to stand on the interest single interest same in same and interest in the company proposed company would not be able to stand on the interest in the company in the c The steps with the Central Bank.

Employees working at
Deiraniyeh Exchange said

happiness moneychangers have small minimum exchanges have small and limited dealings with cheques, especially from outside lordan and excluding Arab countries where collection of cheques is difficult. The employees noted that the same players and that the same players are the same players. - ----- happiness plovees noted that the most — persistent secured cheques they usually $y = y_1 - y_2 = 0$ nys ccept are travellers cheques f the holder agrees to the price a moneychanger would

~ _ ≥:3e. Jul∄okg

They added that setting up company for accepting and company for accepting and collecting cheques would be ery difficult and economicaly not feasible because there tre plenty of forged cheques, und conducting investigations would raise the cost, and nake a deal unlikely.

"Even if the success of the proposed company is 90 per ent guaranteed, the risk of 0 per cent would be enough o lead it to bankruptcy, hey pointed out.

The owner of Jaber Ex-hange said he does not have etailed information about ae proposed entity but he elieves it would be a good lea because it would povide the moneychanger ith quick information about ne drawer of a cheque based in the wide information netork the proposed company

ould have with banks round the world. Ala' Deiraniyeh said he tw no need for the company together if banks blacklist logether if danks diacklist customers who abuse riting cheques and circulate titing cheques and circulate leir names and businesses

m of the country. Hani and Abdul Salam audi dismiss the idea as unractical and unfeasible. "se ... anks can handle the matter remselves, they said (Al ustour).

proughout the financial sys-

Chamber of commerce forms sectoral groups

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Amman Chamber of Commerce is in the process of organising distinct groups to advise it on the interests and concerns of holidays. sectors which are not repre-

officials said Monday. They said a "consultancy committee" representing the stationery and printing indus- any other group under the

Financial

try was formed and its office bearers were elected recent-

Another group to represent the building material and sanitaryware sector would be formed after the 'Eid Al Fitr

"There are also plans to set sented by any organisation, up such consultancy groups officials said Monday, within the Amman Chamber of Commerce for sectors which are not represented by

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Devische Mark	4,75	4.51	5,53	5.43
Swiss Franc	3.37	3.62	3.87	4.25
French Franc	5.91	5.67	6.50	6.55
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.06	2.12	
European Currency Unit	5.75	5.00	6.27	6.82

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Metal	USD:Oz	JD/Gm ³	Metal	USD:Oz	JD:Ges
Gold	379.25	7.50	Silver	4.76	5.1:;

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Currency	Bid	Offer
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Sterling Pound	1.0978	1.195
Deutsche, Mark	0.4764	0.4728
Swiss Franc	0.5562	ū.5590
French Franc	0.1351	0.1354
Japanese You"	0.7158	2.7194
Dulch Guilder	0.4194	0.4275
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Italian Lira"	0.0434	G.0436
Belgian Franc	*****	

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Светевсу	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8280	1.8450
Lebanese Lira*	0.942085	0.042165
Saudi Riyal	0,18472	0.18670
Kuwatii Dipar	2.3150	2.3596
Qutari Riyal	0.1698	6.1926
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	3,2100
Omani Riyal	1.7946	1.4115
UAE Dirham	0.1585	C. 1901
Greek Drachma®	0.2775	0.3175
Cypriot Pound	1.43050	1.53950

Inter. Continental hotels and resorts come out tops in M.E.

Five Inter.Continental Hotels and Resorts in the Middle East have been chosen as favourite properties in cities in theregion by readers of the prestigious magazine Institutional Investor, Inter.Continental Hotels and Resorts has 11 hotels in total in the full city by city list of top hotel. Inter. Continental was the first international hotel chain to operate in the Middle East with the opening of the Phoenicia Inter.Continental Beirut in 1961. These latest awards reward an unparalleled commitment to the region, with 20 Inter. Continental hotels in seven countries includ-ing five hotels and palace hotels in Saudi Arabia. This year the first Forum Resort will open in the Middie East at Hurghada in Egypt and in 1996 two luxury resorts will open in Egypt at Sharm El Sheikh and on the Nile at Luxor.

Magazine names Lufthansa 'Airline of the Year 1994'

Air Transport World has bestowed its "Airline of the Year 1994" award on Lufthansa. This is the second time the prestigious magazine has conferred the distinction on Lufthansa for "exceptional quality in all major areas." The magazine said its principal reason for singling out Lufthansa was its successful restructuring and adaptation to the new requirements in the airline industry. Lufthansa has gone ahead with its privatisation and given major company units their own independence. A reduction of 15 per cent unit costs has been accompanied by a 31 per cent improvement in productivity.



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Ministry of Labour," said an official, who preferred establishment of such groups.

The approach is aimed at ensuring that the interests of all concerned groups are protected throughout and no sector remains without a representative body to lobby on its behalf whenever needed," added the official.

At the same time, the committees will also be able to advise the members they represent on various developments that may concern them and how new laws, regulations and procedures affect them, the official noted.

The "consultancy committees" effectively play the role of the sectoral syndicates and unions of various sectors of the market, but cannot be described as such because the relevant laws and the statute of the Amman Chamber of

ARAB BANK PIC CORDAN NATIONAL BANK CORDAN BATICHAL BANK / NEW MIDULE BAST INVESTMENT BANK INDESTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK THE HOUSING BANK CORDAN GULF BANK JORDAN GULF BANK JORDAN GULF BANK LORDAN ISLANIC BANK ANNAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN PELLADELPEIA INVESTMENT BANK.

BANKS SECTOR

INSURANCE SECTOR

NATIONAL PORTPOLIO SECURITIES UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONHODORE HOTELS

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ARAB SEVESTMENT & IMPROATIONAL TRADE
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY
ARAB PAPER CONVENTING & TRADING
GOGDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JIMCO
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS
UNIVERSAL HODERN INDUSTRIES
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET

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JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE

"The syndicates and unions come under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Labour and their statutes and laws are more related to the Ministry of Labour than the Amman Chamber of Commerce," said an official.

According to the official, who preferred anonymity, the "effective role of the consultancy committee is to advise the board of directors of the Amman Chamber of Commerce on the interests and concerns of their respective sectors so that the board could adopt necessary action.

There are more than two dozen distinct syndicates and unions registered and formed with permission from the Ministry of Labour. These

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include the foodstuff sector, clearing and forwarding, shipping agents, taxi drivers, bank and insurance com-Danies etc.

While it is obligatory for all business establishments to register themselves as members in the Amman Chamber of Commerce, membership in the syndicates and unions is voluntary.

The Ministry of Labour supervises the functions of the registered syndicates and unions and their election of office-bearers.

The respective syndicate/ union also has a strong say along with the Ministry of Labour in internal disputes in the concerned sector as well as inter-sectoral disputes and often assume the role of PATRICIAL OF

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U.S. recycling turns profitable as markets heat up

SEATTLE (AP) - Garbage was never so precious.

The recycling industry, after faltering for years despite public enthusiasm for recycling, has finally hit its stride. Demand is high for nearly all recyclables, and prices have soared for used paper, cardboard, aluminum cans and plastic.

It's good news not just for the recycling trade but for green-minded consumers who have been faithfully soming their trash into bins, not knowing that some supposedly recycled materials actually languished in warehouses or ended up in landfills.

"Industry has gotten on the recycling bandwagon because it's good business," said D'Anne Mount, a spokes-woman with the Solid Waste Utility of Seattle.

The rebounding economy has increased demand for recycled materials by stimulating production of consumer goods. Technological advance also have helped, making it chaper to create new products from used materials - clothing and shoes from old plastic bottles, for exam-

But industry insiders say the biggest reason for good times in the garbage business is as growing recognition that recycling is more than a pas-sing fad. What started as an environmental gesture is becoming tightly woven into the nation's economic fabric: - The federal govern-

ment, one of the world's largest paper users, now requires its agencies to buy writing and printing paper with 20 per cent recycled

- Major corporations regularly boast of thier commitment to recycling. McDonald's Corp. last month announced it had spent \$1 billion since 1990 on recycled goods for its restaurants, from paper tray-liners to

 Paper manufacturers, banking on continued de-mand for recycled paper, plan to spend \$10 billion by the year 2000 retooling and building new mills to make recycled paper, says the American Forest and Paper Association. Companies that once wor-

products would sell now worry instead about finding the recycled materials they need. "Prices are up for every-thing," said Lisa Rabasca, editor of Recycling Times, an

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ried about whether recycled

and plastics plants find themselves scrambling for feedstock, paying top dollar for material that they often got for a minimal fee only two vears ago."

industry newsletter. "Mills

Nationwide, paper mills paid an average \$89 a tonne for old newspapers at the end of January, up 424 per cent from \$17 a tonne one year earlier, according to Recycling Times. Prices increased 216 per cent for corrugated containers, 219 per cent for plastic milk jugs, and 93 per cent for aluminum cans.

The reason for such sharp swings can be traced to the late 1980s, when recycling came to be seen as an environmental magic bullet, in one stroke saving money, sparing natural resources and easing pressure on landfills.

More than 6,600 U.S. communities now have program-me in which recyclable materials are picked up outside their homes. That's up from about 1,000 five years ago.

Seattle has led the way, recycling 48 per cent of its residential solid waste, the highest rate of any large U.S. city. But other areas are catching up. Nationwide, 22 per cent of all municipal solid waste was recovered for recycling or composting in 1993, up from 17 per cent in 1990, says a new study commissioned by the Federal Environmental Protection

Agency.
"I think most people are looking for ways to reduce waste in their everyday lives," said Ms. Mount. "Recycling is something they can do to make a difference.

There still are weak spots in recycling, such as plastics. About seven per cent of all plastic packaging is recycled, according to the American Plastics Council, compared to 25 per cent of glass containers and nearly 70 per cent of aluminum cans.

But even the plastics situation is improving. Two years ago, some cities were dropping plastic collection from their recycling programme due to a lack of buyers. Now big users of recycled plastic are pleading for new sources of material.

"We need more bottles. It's simply a nightmare for us." said Tom Rattray associate director of environmental quality at Cincinnatibased Procter and Gamble Co., which uses recycled plastic to package products including liquid detergent and fabric softener.

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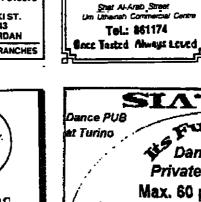
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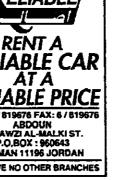




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Graf tops Pierce to regain No. 1 slot

PARIS (Agencies) — Steffi Graf erased a lot of doubts her own and others — by routing Mary Pierce, 6-2, 6-2, Sunday at the Paris Open to regain the No. 1 world rank-

"I came here on Monday... and I still felt I was not sure if I was ready to play in a tournament. I was not sure how I would do," Graf said. "Then to come here and beat two top five players. I just didn't expect anything like

that could happen." Before this tournament, Graf had been sidelined for three months with back and leg injuries, losing her No. 1 ranking while struggling to get back in condition.

"I didn't know I would do. I was just waiting for some-thing to come," Graf said.

That something was four solid victories in a five-day span, including wins over fifth-ranked Jana Novotna in the semifinals and then over third-ranked Pierce.

As a result, Graf will move nast Arantya Sanchez Vicario when then new rankings come out.

Sanchez Vicario took over the top ranking on Feb. 6 after Graf missed the Australian Open. Pierce beat Sanchez Vicario for the Australian title, but was no match

for Graf on Sunday. Often depicted as too businesslike, Graf was euphoric about her victory and her form, grinning like a

first-time winner. "I'm extremely happy," she said. "The way I played in the tournament. The fact I was able to play... the way it

all came together." Graf played aggressively and served well, pounding 10 aces as well as numerous hard

services that set up easy forehand winners. "Steffi was Steffi," Pierce said. "She served extremely

well, which was an important

part of the match."

"I was a little tired and a. little bit sore for all the matches I played this week," Pierce added. "I'm not giving that as an excuse. Steffi played well but I was a step too slow today.1

Graf had lost to Pierce twice last year, in the French Open semifinals and in the Virginia Slims quarterfinals in November, her last match before this week.

Graf said there was a big difference from her 6-2, 6-2 loss to Pierce at the French Open last June. "I felt myself in a totally

different spirit then," Graf said. "My tennis was way off. I was struggling with my "I believe more in myself

today than I did then. Now Graf will go back to No. 1 to add to her 277 weeks she had previously held the top ranking. Martina Naratilova, who won this tournament the past two years, has the record of 331 weeks.

Sanchez Vicario will have a chance to regain the top ranking at the Indian Wells, Calif. tournament in March. Graf plays in Del Ray, Florida, the following week.

Kafelnikov upsets Becker in final

In Milan, Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov stunned topseeded Boris Becker 8-6 in a thrilling third-set tiebreaker Sunday to win the Muratti Time indoor and earn the biggest victory in this threeyear pro career.

The 21-year-old Russian took two hours and 15 minutes to defeat Becker 7-5, 5-7, 7-6 (8-6) at Milan Forum, in the closest and hardest-fought final in 18 jubilant German years of the Italian tourna- Manfred Thiesmann.

The fifth seed ranked 10th on the ATP Tour earned \$128,000 for the victory, but

said he still feels like a junior player on the pro circuit. Kafelnikov earned the decisive two points in the tiebreaker with a smash and on a double fault by Becker, who missed out on a record fifth title in Milan and a second consecutive tournament victory after winning Marseille

last Sunday. "He was better than I by one point, but he played a great match. I expect him to achieve other great results this year," Becker said.

Kafelnikov said Becker was his long-time idol "and playing him in a final of a major tournament was a dream coming true."

"He made me a special birthday gift losing this final said Kafelnikov, who to me. turned 21 Saturday while beating Goran Ivanisevic in the semifinals.

"Boris played at his best, and I felt close to defeat when he won the second set and took me to the third. But never gave up, I always fought. It was my biggest

opportunity. The victory was Kefelnikov's fourth title, joining 1994 wins in Adelaide, Australia; Copenhagen, De-

nmark, and Long Island in the United States. "It was difficult to reach the top 10 at 20. But it will be

even harder to stay among the top 10 this year," the Russian said. Unofficially, the ATP Tour

figures he will rise to seventh when the weekly rankings are

released Monday. Becker, the defending champion in Milan, appeared to be heading toward an easy first-set victory when he broke the Russian in the first game and held to lead 2-0.

Kafelnikov, whose power-

ful backhand was the key to

his victory, broke Becker twice to lead 5-2. The German served 25 aces in the final and had 10 double faults, compared with Kafelnikov's three aces and four double fauits.

'I'm sorry for missing the fifth title here," Becker said. "But I plan to try again in the next two years."

Todd Martin survived early problems, steadied himself and finally beat Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands in straight-sets to win the St. Judge ATP tennis tournament for the second year in a row here Sunday.

Martin, the third seed. beat the unseeded Haarhuis 7-6 (7/2), 6-4, becoming the first player to retain the St. Judge title since Jimmy Connors won in 1983 and 1984.

Haarhuis, ranked 48th in the world, got the first break to go 2-1 up in the opening

"It was a pretty interesting situation. I was nervous and my opponent took advansaid Martin, who will move from 16th to 11th in the world rankings on the strength of the tournament

Haarhuis failed to consolidate his lead, wasting two break points in the fifth

Martin then broke back, and Haarhuis' serve let him down in the tie-break.

Pocketing the first set clearly improved Martin's confidence and he served 10 of his 16 aces in the second set — breaking Haarhuis in the third game and moving him relentlessly about the

"In the second set when he got the break, he never looked back." said Haarhuis. 'His serve was working, and

he never really gave me a The Dutch player said he

tried to anticipate Martin's serve, but to no avail. "I tried to step forward just tried to be ready. And every time I would go forward, the ball would already

be by me," he said. Third time lucky for

In Oklahoma City, Brenda Schultz overwhelmed Elena Likhovtseva 6-1, 6-2 to win the WTA Tour women's tennis tournament here, finally carrying off the prize in her third appearance in the final of the event. Schultz, the top seed, re-

Schultz

lied on her big serve, serving six aces in the final to bring her total for the week to 31. "This whole week, I have played smart," Schultz said. The surface here is very fast, so with my serve she never got into a good rhythm. When I broke her in the

second game of the match, I

felt very confident." Martin beats Haarhuis In fact, Schultz won the first five games. She didn't run into any In Memphis, Tennessee, trouble until she tried to close out the match, when she needed four match points in

the final game to seal the victory.

Swimming World Cup

Van Almsick heads as Germans dominate

GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany (AP) — Franziska Van Almsick and Mark War- irchen, which lived up to its neckes won again Sunday as host Germany dominated the final day of the short course

metre freestyle — her third victory at the two-day event -- pacing the German swimmers who turned the home pool to their advantage by sweeping seven of 12 events Sunday.

Warnecke, who is making a triumphant return from a shoulder operation, added the 100 metre breaststroke to the world record he set Saturday over 50 metres in that

discipline. "We were optimistic but we hadn't reckoned with these kind of results," said German coach

turned a hat trick at Gelsenkreputation as a fast pool. Two world and three European records were shattered at the World Cup in swimming. event, adding to the 53 world Van Almsick won the 100- and 39 European records already recorded there.

Vladimir Selkov also

The Russian beat U.S. star Jeff Rouse in the backstroke for the second time Sunday. setting a European record of 24.56 seconds in the 50-metre event. Rouse, who swam 24.85, holds the world re-

Selkov captured the 200 metre backstroke Sunday, one day after he trounced Rouse in the 100 metres. Australia's Angela Ken-nedy won the 50 metre butterfly in 26.79 seconds, after

setting a year's best of 26.73 in the qualifying heat.

Juventus extend lead as Lazio crush Milan

surged eleven points clear at the top of the French first division at the weekend when they beat Martigues 3-0 to equal Paris Saint Germain's 1986/87 record of 26 matches unbeaten from the season's

Patrice Loko, who tops the goal list with 18, Reynald Pedros and Japhet N'Doram got on the scoresheet for the UEFA Cup finalists in a rearranged match.

Nantes now have 58 points with second-placed Lyon and PSG, who play on Thursday at the Parc Des Princes, both

Juventus widened their lead at the top of the Italian first division by beating Napoli 1-0 while nearest rivals Parma lost at Cagliari, and in Germany Borussia Dortmund had a champions' look about them when they clinched a 5-1 win at thirdfrom-bottom Munich 1860. The win kept them four points ahead of Werder Bremen, 1-0 winners over Dynamo Dresden.

Meanwhile in Spain lead-ers Real Madrid dropped a surprise point when they were held to a 0-0 draw at home by modest Albacate but they remain four points clear of Deportivo La Coruna who hammered visiting Racing Santander 3-0 thanks to goals from Voro and Bebeto while Donato also slotted

home from the penalty spot. Juventus, who are seeking their first title since 1986, clinched their win twelve minutes from time - Fabrizio Ravanelli, recovered from a mid-weed calf strain, finding the net after a pass from under-21 international Ales-

sandro Del Piero. The win doubled Juventus' leading points margin from three to six with 45 from 20 ames against 39 from 20 for

Cagliari beat Parma 2-0 with goals from Beretta in the sixth minute and Luis Oliveira after 15 minutes. Lazio, with two consecu-

tive defeats to Bari and Torino, bounced back to crush AC Milan 4-0. International striker Giuseppe Signori scored a second-half hat-trick after

Lazio went 1-0 up in the first period through an 18th minute goal from Pierluigi Without suspended sweeper Jose Chamot and Croatian

striker Alen Boksic, down ated the outgoing champions who were in poor form and reduced the 10 men after 54



Luis Oliveira (left) of Cagliari and Luigi Appoloni (right) of Parma duel during the Italian first league match. Cagliari

Their captain Paolo Maldini was sent off for bringing down striker Casiraghi and Signori scored the first of his three goals from the Penalty

Lazio are now level on points with third-placed AS Roma, who were beaten 1-0 by an excellent Genoa side thanks to a 13th minute goal from Czech striker Thomas Skuhravy. Genoa gave Jananese striker Miura his first full 90-minutes workout and he responded by causing panic in Roma defence.

In Germany Freiburg, who

beat Karlsruhe 2-1, were five

points behind Dortmund

while outgoing champions Bayern Munich, 2-1 winners

at bottom club VFL Bochum,

Hitzfeld pointed out that no

club since Bayern in 1990 had

won the title after leading at

the halfway stage. He is even

more cautious as Dortmund

are without a title since 1963.

re-start with a win," he

"So it was important to

Dortmund struggled after

Michael Zorc's eighth minute penalty and Munich hit a post

and the bar before German

international Matthias Sem-

mer got Dortmund moving

again with a 57th minute

Swiss international Stephane

Chapuisat and Andy Moller

scored in a late burst. Cha-

strike.

Dortmund coach Ottmar

vere six points adrift.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

scored 11 goals so far this

Bremen beat fourth-frombottom Dresden with a goal just before the interval from their Austrian midfielder Andreas Herzog whom Bayern are reported to be

keen to sign next season. Bayern have already per-suaded Bremen coach Otto Rehhagel to take over from Italian coach Giovanni Tra-

pattoni next season. Manchester United took another step towards a second "double" in successive seasons when they swept

into the last eight of the FA

Cup at the expense of bitter rivals Leeds United here on

Two goals in the first five

minutes by Steve Bruce and Brian McClair had appeared

to kill of this season eagerly-

awaited encounter before a

goal by Anthony Yeboah — Leeds record 3.4 million sign-

ing — eight minutes after

coming on at the interval

revived the visitors hopes. But Mark Hughes, playing his first match since gashing

his knee in the process of scoring against Newcastle, produced a superb header 20

in the same season.

defeated Parma by 2-0. Oliveira scored the second goal for his team (AFP photo)

Premiership, two points behind Blackburn Rovers, United remain on course to become the first side to achieve back-to-back Doubles.

The English football authorities and police are back on red alert following the violence in Dublin Wednesday but this potentially explosive clash passed off without

major incident. A capacity crowd of 43,000 turned up and though there was the ritual exchange of verbal abuse, there were only

seven arrests. "For the size of the crowd those figures are good and we are very pleased," said a spokesman for Great Manchester Police. "The crowd was well behaved generally."

Both United's opening goals came from Ryan Giggs corners as first Bruce and then Brian McClair rose to put the Cup holders into the lead with many fans still making their way into the ground.

But in the 53rd minute Leeds restored some hope after an abject first-half performance when Ghanaian striker Yeboah prodded home David White's low cross from close range.

Two goals by Keith Gillesgave Newcastle revenge for their only home defeat of the season and took them into the last eight of the FA Cup for the first time since

minutes from time to set up a home tie against QPR in the Gillespie's goals were his quarter-finals. United, Liverpool, Arsenfirst for the club since his and Tottenham are the transfer from Manchester double" - winning the seven million pound deal that Championship and FA Cup

the two-goal performance of the youngster he described as one of the most exciting players in English football when he brought him to St. James

"He's a real emerging talent and I'm delighted for him that he's off the mark,

Keegan said. But City, who beat Newcastle in the League Cup here in December, were left fuming about the circumstances of the Northern Ireland mid-

fielder's first strike after 15 The City players had all stopped in anticipation of a stle after the linesman had flagged for offside

against Paul Kitson. But referee Gerald Ashby waved play-on and Gillespie charged down 'keeper Andy Dibble's clearance and rolled

the ball into the net. City responded with an equaliser by Uwe Rosler after 30 minutes before John Beresford's first goal in 22 months moments later put

Newcastle ahead again. Gillespie, who celebrated his 20th birthday on Satur-day, grabbed the third midway through the second half. Liverpool's struggling cup campaign continued at

Anfield where the five-time winners were held to a 1-1 draw by battling Wimbledon. The Reds were taken to replays in the last two rounds by first division Burnley and and once again their inability to find the net has added another fixture to their con-

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gested season.

took Andy Cole to Old Trafford.

Newcastle manager Kevin

But lying second in the puisat and Moller have both **SPORTS IN BRIEF**

al Olympic Committee said Monday. The amount is three times as much as the EBU paid for the rights to broadcast the 1994 Lillehammer Winter Games. CBS has already acquired the U.S. broadcast rights to the Games for a record \$375 million. The games will be played in Nagano, Japan. The EBU links 64 national broadcasters in Europe, the and 1:19.43 in the 1,000m. Middle East and North Africa.

Klinsmann named German captain

selected Sunday as captain of Germany's days ago, has confirmed he will take part in national soccer team for Wednesday's game next month's world indoor championships in against Spain. Coach Berti Vogts named Barcelona. A statement from the Internation-Klinsmann to take over the role of the injured al Amateur Athletic Federation on Monday been captain of the national squad a record 67 matches. Matthaeus, 34, tore his Achilles' tendon several weeks ago in a career- outdoor 100 and 200 metres champion, equal threatening injury and will miss the rest of the Germany first division season. The 30-yearold Klinsmann, Germany's 1994 soccer player unbeaten streak of Britain's world high hurof the year, is competing with Juventus Turin dles champion Colin Jackson in Madrid on defender Juergen Kholer as a long-time re- February 9. placement for Matthaeus. Kohler, however, is

China awaits top female footballer

BELIING (R) - Chinese females, who made major break-throughs with a series of world records in athletics two years ago, have broken another barrier in sport. For the first time, China's women footballers are eligible to win a golden shoe, for the player of the first round of the tournament, guaranteeing year, the Xinhua news agency said on Mon-them a place in the final stage. Tulio of day. Nationwide voting that began on Mon-Botafogo is the competition's top scorer with day allows football fans to select not only their eight in seven games while Clovis of Vasco da favourite male player, as in previous years, but a favourite woman as well, it said. The two winning players will be awarded a 180-gramme (6.3 ounce) golden shoe at the start of this year's league season in April.

Blair triumphs before home fans

was the competition I was aiming for all race before winning here last year, is only the season." Blair said after winning Sunday's third driver in Daytona history to win in 500m and 1.000m. "To a certain extent, I can consecutive years.

EBU pays \$72m for Nagano Games kind of relax a little bit." But, she hastened to add: "This isn't it. This was the main part of GENEVA (AP) — The European Broadcast- the season, but I still want to try to skate well ing Union has agreed to pay \$72 million for the rest of the year." Blair, 30, will retire at the exclusive European rights to broadcast the the end of the season, after the closing World 1998 Winter Olympic Games, the Internation- Cup events in Norway and Germany and a stop in Calgary, where she won her first Olympic gold medal in 1988. Though nearing the end of her career, Blair is still pushing the limits of her sport. She set the 500m world record in Calgary last month with a time of 38.69. Her times in winning Saturday's races here were truck records — 39.13 in the 500m

Kiptanui confirmed for indoor championships

MONACO (R) - Kenyan world steeplechas BERLIN (AP) — Jergan Klinsmann, the champion Moses Kiptanui, who broke his popular Tottenham Hotspur forward, was own world indoor 3,000 metres record eight Lothar Matthaeus, the Bayern Munich libero- said Russian sprinter Irina Privalova and midfielder and veteran international who had American hurdler Allen Johnson had also confirmed they would take part in the meeting from March 10-12. Privalova, the European led her own world indoor 60 metres record this month while Johnson ended the 44-race

also sidelined with an injury for the Spain Romario misses 3 easy chances

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) - Romario converted an injury time penalty after missing three easy chances in Flamengo's 3-1 win over Bangu in the Rio de Janeiro championship at the weekend. The goal took his tally in the competition to four — two of them penalties — while the win meant Flamengo finished top of group B at the end of the first half of the Botafogo is the competition's top scorer with Gama has seven.

Mariin wins 2nd Daytona 500

DAYTONA BEACH (R) — Sterling Marlin held off a tremendous late challenge by Dale Earnhardt to win his second consecutive Daytona 500 in just .61 seconds in front of MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin (AFP) — Bonnie 150,000 fans on Sunday. Mark Martin was Blair, whose six Olympic medals include five third, followed by Ted Musgrave, polesitter gold, swept all four races at the World Sprint Dale Jarrett, Michael Waltrip, Steve Gris-Speedskating Championships this weekend — som, Terry Labonte, Ken Schrader and Morher last competition on American ice. "This gan Shepherd. Marlin, who had never won a

Christie storms to world 200m record

LIEVIN, France (Agencies) — Linford Christie showed he is serious about tackling the sprint double at the World Championships as he stormed to a 200m indoor world

record at a star-studded international meeting Sunday.

The Olympic and World 100m champion, who revealed recently he would be concentrating more on the longer sprint this year and could even double up in Gothenburg, turned the tables on 200m world champion and training partner Frankie Fredericks here by winning in 20.35secs for

his first-ever world mark.

That eclipsed Frenchman Bruno Marie-Rose's eight year record of 20.36, run on the same track. And it also eclipsed British teammate and world silver medallist John Regis, who declared earlier this season that he was himself gunning for the 200m world record himself. But here he could only finish third here and was then

disqualified for running outside his lane. Christie said: "I'm surprised. It's fun, it's great. I arrived here at midnight last night and only decided to run the 200 What made Christie's run even more remarkable was

that it came after he had earlier improved his own 60m European Indoor record by a hundredth of a second, running 6.47 to yet again leave Namibian Fredericks trailing in second place (6.52) with Nigerian Olapade Adeniken third (6.57).

The 34-year-old Christie had given a hint of his fine form eight days ago.

Just back from training in Australia with Fredericks, he opened his domestic campaign by running 6.56secs in an international match against France in Glasgow, which was then the second fastest time in the world this year.

Sunday was also a record-breaking night for Russia's double European sprint champion Irina Privalova over 200m. She ran 22.10 to improve her 1993 European mark of 22.15, easily beating Julie Cuthbert of Jamaica and Natalya Voronova of Russia.

Not to be outdone by Christie, she also won her 60m event, timing 6.94 to beat 200m world champion Merlene Ottey (6.97) and Commonwealth 100m champion Mary Onyali of Nigeria (7.19). There was no repeat record, however, for Moses Kiptanui of Kenya or pole vaniter Sergey Bubka. The steeplechase world best made an attempt on his won 3,000m mark of 7min 35.15, recorded in Ghent in Belgium

earlier this month, but missed out by two seconds as he clocked 7min. 37.14. Bubka, the proud owner of 35 indoor and oudoor world records, won his event but the Ukrainian only needed to pass on to beat Russians Piotr Bochkaryov and Igor

Trandenkov.

Sigei finishes outside top 40

In Nairobi, twice world cross country champion William Sigei, whose training has been disrupted by an ankle injury, finished outside the top 40 in the Kenyan Championships but was still named in a provisional squad for next month's

world championships. The men's race over 12 kilometres was won for the second time by Paul Terest in a time of 35 minutes 11-9 seconds ahead of Kiptum Muigei who clocked 35:28.0.





- Mario Reiter wins giant slalom; Tomba skids out

FURANO, Japan (AP) — When Alberto Tomba turned cold, he was cold indeed. When Mario Reiter was hot, he was sizzling.

Tomba came to Japan with 10 victories in 12 races, including triumphs in all seven of the World Cup season's

He slid out of a slalom Sunday on the first run and a giant slalom Monday on the second. That continued a cold streak of never winning a race in Japan in a decade on the World Cup tour. Reiter came in with a record of no better than a 16th-place finish last season and no better than

fourth this winter. With the fastest second run of the day, he placed second in Sunday's slalom. With his confidence pumped up, he came from behind again for victory on Monday.

"I've been working for this success a long time and worked very hard," said the 24vear-old Reiter, who had a tear in his eye after the finish.

Knee injuries in 1988 and 1990 set back his development. Both came in giant slalom races, and Reiter said he felt that with Monday's giant slalom victory, he was being repaid.

Slovenia's Jure Kosir, who went from first place to frustration on Saturday and Sunday, was first again after

But, Reiter said, "I knew I had a chance to win today because I was only one-tenth (of a second) behind." Still, he added, "it's unbe-

lievable. Tomba, he added, "it's un-

believable." Tomba, third fastest in the first run, went right after Reiter in the second and

needed a strong performance to pull ahead. After a long flat section in mid-course, he slashed into the final steep portion and let his skis slip too far sideways

on a turn, taking him out of the race. "I made a mistake because I arrived too fast at that gate," he said. "I was think-

ing only of winning and it was impossible to be cautious." Reiter had a total time of 2 minutes, 38.92 seconds for his two runs, edging Kosit by

.11 seconds. Norwegians took the next three places. Harald Strand-Nilsen finished third in 4:39.17, .25 behind the winner, followed by Lasse Kjus

Tomba, known as "La Bomba" for his explosive rac-ing, still holds a big lead in the overall World Cup stand-

ings.
"So of course my chance is first good" for winning his first overall World Cup title ever, he said.

He has 1,050 points, while Kosir's second-place total climbed to 750. Five-time World Cup champion Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg, third with 603, was disqualified in Monday's first run and did not gain any points. But Girardelli still has 10

races remaining to Tomba's two because Tomba does not ski in downhill and super giant slalom events. Kosir, a slalom specialist, said he was planning to enter at least one Super-G this season in an effort to pick up points.

Aamodt, another all-round

skier, gained 45 points for his fifth place and moved up to fourth in the overall standings with 554.

Reiter leaped from 13th before the Furano races to sixth, with 515.

Tomba, whose last World Cup race before Japan was a giant slalom victory Feb. 4,

in 2:39.22 and defending World Cup champion Kjetil Andre Aamodt in 2:39.39. the long layoff.
Now, he said, he was worried about his last two races of the season, still a month away in Bormio, Italy. They could be crucial, depending on the results of downhill and

> turning to training. Kosir's frustrations began on Saturday, when he was fastest in the first run of a giant slalom — and Tomba was sixth — before gusting winds led to cancellation of the race after about one-third

Super-G races in between.

day in Thailand before re-

He planned a week's holi-

On Sunday, he slipped from first after the first run to fourth overall.

of the field had started.

Americans sweep aerials

In La Clusaz, France, Trace Worthington and Nikki Stone gave the United States a sweep of the aerials titles Sunday at the World Freestyle Skiing Championships.

The men's event produced spectacular jumps by the top contenders and marked the first time that five competitors scored more than 230 points. It also was the first time in four world championships that a Canadian didn't win the aerials title.

'In appreciation to all friends and staff of the German Embassy

Muayyad Barmawi and his wife Annie express their gratitude and appreciation to the friends and the German Embassy staff in Amman who contributed to the search for their daughter Milsa who has returned to her family safely. Thank you all!

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was not at the heim when this hand was played in the Irish Trials. South's pass was uncommonly cautious by the standards of bridge in the Emerald Isls. But when North could make a takeout double of West's opening bid. South bid the

full value of the hand.
West led the two of diamonda, an obvious singleton. Declarer won in dummy and cashed the king of spades, letching the jack from West. To protect against a singleton Jack of spades with West and prepared to

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lose a trump trick to a doubleton Q
J, declarer continued with a trump
to the ten.

It will be a long time before declarer tries anything like that again.
West won the queen of trumps, led a
heart to East's are and ruffed the
diamond return. The king of hearts
was cashed for the setting trick.

Had declarer had a comb Had declarer had a combined to-tal of nine trumps the finesse of the ten on the second round would be the technically correct play, based on the Principle of Restricted Choice. That does not hold true when the combined trump holding is only sight because the extra trump in the defenders' hands al-

Tel.: 699238

T-Wolves, Warriors trade forwards

OAKLAND (AP) — Golden State and Minnesota, stumbling through disappointing seasons, have traded forwards, with rookie Donyell Marshall heading to the War-riors and Tom Gugliotta to

The 2.05-metre Marshall, the fourth player selected in the 1994 National Basketball Association draft, signed a 9-year, \$42.6 million contract with the Timberwolves last

But he has been something of a disappointment, averag-ing 10.8 points, 4.9 rebounds, 1.3 blocks and 25.9 minutes in 40 games.
"There was a rumour I was

supposed to be traded for Billy Owens before the season started. It (Saturday's trade) makes me believe that it was true," he said.

Marshall, criticised for what some saw as a lack of enthusiasm, admitted be had a difficult year.

"It was a very up and down year. I really didn't have the opportunity to show what I could do," he said during a conference call Saturday night." Other than that, my mood's been up and down. I never knew what was going to happen. It was a very difficult situation."

The Warriors got Gugliotta and three first-round draft picks in a Nov. 17 trade that sent Chris Webber, last season's NBA rookie of the year, to Washington. Gugliotta was the sixth overall pick in the 1992 NBA draft for the Bullets.

With the Warriors this season, Gugliotta has averaged 10.9 points, 7.4 rebounds, 3.1 assists and 33.1 minutes in 40

Timberwolves general manager Jack McCloskey hopes Gugliotta's all-out scrambling style of play might rub off on the Timberwolves, who have won only 12 games this season. "There's no question he has a tremendous work ethic.

He's a hustler, an aggressive player, who has really proven himself the two years he's been in the league," McCloskev said.

Minnesota tookie coach Bill Blair said Gugliotta probably wouldn't start at first, but eventually could win that role.

"I'm just real pleased we got Tommy. I think he's going to be a great addition to our team," said Blair, who added that he had worked with Gugliotta in Washington when he was an assistant coach there.

Saturday's trade was the Warriors' first move since coach Don Nelson resigned and assistant Bob Lanier took over last Monday.

Results of Sunday's games

New York 122, Houston 117 Indiana 106, Miami 87 Minnesota 100, Orlando 95 Denver 94, Washington 92 Phoenix 110, Utah 107 L.A. Lakers 93, Portland 83

Um Al Summaq.

Jazireh's women's basketball team to play in Bethlehem in March

By Aleen Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN - March 1995 will be an unforgettable month for Al Jazireh's women's basketball team when they will go down in Jordan's sports archives as the first team to visit the occupied territories since

After being hosted by the Catholic Action Club of Bethlehem, the team will have a mere two-week rest before they travel to Cyp-rus where they will be the guests of Kefalovrysos Club, one of five teams who played in Al Jazireh's international tournament in July 1994.

Both tournaments will put the finishing touches on the team's preparations for the Kingdom's basketball championship scheduled for mid-April when Al Jazireh will seek to win back the title they conceded to Al Orthodoxi after pulling out of the 1994

Al Jazireh's history making trip, March 2-7, will include five matches against Palestinian teams: Orthodoxi Beit Jala, two matches against hosts Al Catholic (one of which will be under the patronage of Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij), a match against Sariyet Ramallah, and the University of Bethlehem.

"Players are very enthusiastic about the idea of visiting the occupied territories which they have only heard about. They will also get to meet players of the teams we hosted in Amman," Jazireh's coach Fadi Al Sabbah Monday told the Jordan Times.

Al Jazireh a 5-0 record against Al Catholic and



Jordan's 1993 champions Ai Jazireh

Sariyet Ramallah teams whom they hostd three times. The two teams represent the best players in the occupied territories and will soon be played for the Palestinian championship.

Mr. Sabbah, who has 10 players on the initial lineup of the newly regrouped national team, hopes the matches will be a good test before playing more ex-perienced teams in Cyprus, March 22-29.

Kefalovrysos have in-vited the Bethlehem team, Kalymnos of Greece, Syria's runners up Al Jala' Lebanese champions Homentmen, Jordan's reigning champions Al Orthdoxi in addition to Al Jazireh.

Kefalovrysos have moved from fifth to third place in the Cypriot championship and have two Bulgarian professionals on the team, while the Greek team is a second division

The Lebanese champions, who have six players on the Lebanese national team, are considered one of the top teams in the Arab World and have a remarkable record of winning their country's cham-pionship from 1957-1975 losing the title only once in 1968. They staged a power-ful comeback and again

of regular competitions fol-lowing a decade-long interruption due to the civil war. Al Jala' beat Al Jazireh twice with a good margin in Aleppo early in 1994, and finished second after Al Horriyeh in the Syrian

won the Lebanon Cup in

1994 after the resumption

Al Orthodoxi, who had an undisputed reign over the Kingdom's competitions lost the title to Al Jazireh in 1993, but easily

won it back last year when

Al Jazireh pulled out of the

competition leaving only Abu Nusair as Al Ahli and Homentmen did not take

Al Orthodoxi, who currently miss the efforts of Jihan Abdul Nour and Carol Seikaly who are out of the country, now have Shireen Abu Khader back on the team, together with Dima and Ghada Qandah, Hind Ghouri, Zina Farah and a young lineup of play-

Al Jazireh however boast a more coherent lineup that have been steadily improving since they first joined the women's championship in 1991 finishing fourth, then taking third place in 1992 before upsetting Al Orthodoxi in 1993.

The team includes Rana Husseini, Jumana Salti, Tala Mauge, Suhair Mackusi, Tamara Khadra, Rania Dajani, Hala Muheisen and a good group of ambi-

Russia add to gold reserves in University Games

JACA, Spain (Agencies) — Russian skiers tightened their grip on the World Winter University Games Monday, despite having to share the limelight with France in the women's downhill.

A day after two Moscowteachers gave Russia a one-10km cross country, Anna Larionova added a rare Alpine gold after clocking 1min 48.32sec in the downhill

However, the other places on the podium went to the French, with Marianne Brechu taking the silver in 1:48.64 and Chrystelle Felisaz, a World Cup skiler for the past few seasons, winning the bronze in 1:49.25.

Alexei Tregubov, who was born and grew up in Russia but who is competing here for Belarus, won the men's 15km classic, ahead of Italy's Francesco Semenzato and Japan's Daichi Azegami.

Larionova won Russia's first Alpine gold of the post-Soviet era at this level, the most recent previous victory having been Natalia Buga's super giant slalom gold for the USSR at Sofia in 1989.

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fully-loaded, American system.

There was satisfaction too in the French camp for a race which had apparently gone exactlay to plan. Gerard Malho, the deputy

delegation chief, said: "The coaches predicted a second and third place on the basis of training times," he said. Tregudov, wik break into the Belarussian senior team, streaked into an

early lead and then clung on the win by more than 40 seconds. "It was really hard in the beginning," he admitted. "But in the middle of the race, my coach told me I was 40sec in the lead, so I knew

what I had to do. I had to see it through to the end." The 23-year-old added: "I would like to be full-time in the World Cup, because I've been training for the past 12 years, but at the moment I'm still in the second team. I'd

like to move up. Japanese coach Akira Sato was disappointed with the result, but was consoled by the fact that 20-year-old Azegami from Nagano had to defy the effects of a cold to win his

"It was so-so," he said, "I-

was looking for the told med-al from either Masaaki Kozu (56th) or Katsushito Ebisawa

But I think that the skilers who started earlier had an advantage because the snow was harder. Later on, it began to melt and it made the going slower."

Spending for Summer University Games — \$1.5b

Spending on the World University Games this year in Fukuoka, Japan, will reach \$1.5 billion, matching the budget for the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, the president of the University. Games said Saturday.

Primo Nebiolo, president of the Brussels-based International Federation for University Sports (FISU), said Japanese organisers told him

Saturday that a record 150 countries and more than 6,000 officials and athletes would attend the games in Japan Aug. 23-Sept. 3. 200-r Nebiolo spoke as the nine-

day Winter University Games opened in this northern Spanish ski resort. The games are open to amateur and professional athletes ages 17 to 28 who are students or just out of college.

They are organising the World University Games like they were the Olympics." said Nebiolo, an Italian who also heads the IAAF." world-governing body of athletics.

"I'm very happy to say Fukuoka has done an incredi-ble job very rapidaly, building so many new facilities,' he added.

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He said the jewel of the event would be a 52,000-seat, retractable-roofed stadium -known as the Fukuoka Dome - modeled after a similar: domed stadium in Toronto,

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Shelling, shooting break calm in Grozny

GROZNY (Agencies) — Small arms fire and sporadic shelling broke an uneasy calm in southern Grozny on Monday, the day after a temporary ceasefire expired in the breakaway republic of

The warring sides had accused each other of breaching the shaky truce, which began last Wednesday. Both Russian and Chechen officials were reportedly still trying to arrange another round of

Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev repeated his call Monday for talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, saying he never expected talks at the military level to

"Commanders are never able to solve problems," he told the Estonian newspaper Postimees, the Interfax news agency reported. He said the war in Chechenya will "last for another 50 years."

Mr. Dudayev also denied earlier reports about his son Avlur, saying he was only wounded and that his entire family now lives in the moun-

As the ceasefire ran out, heavy explosions could be heard south of the shattered capital Sunday evening. Russian Interior Ministry troops with several armoured vehicles had dug in overnight near the village of Samashky, west of Grozny.

There were some firefights but it was nothing drastic — we answered their (Russian) fire," said Ramazan Jabilov, the 34-year-old commander of Chechenya's "Baysangur unit," on his way

out from southern Grozny. Standing with a group of fighters on a stretch of empty road near the deserted village of Alkhan-Yurt, Mr. Jabilov

orders to shoot and neither have we orders not to shoot. We simply answer their fire." A light round smacked into

the dense woods swathed in mist behind him, startling a group of women refugees. One of them, 45-year-old Tamara, explained they were on their way back after an unsuccessful attempt to see their apartments.

"They're firing at everything - it was too dangerous to go back," she said.
A mediator said mean-

while six Russian soldiers were exchanged for six Chechen fighters in a prison-er swap conducted under the supervision of monitors from the Russian republic of Ing-

The mediator, Pyotr Kosov of Ingushetia, said the exchange was carried out Sunday in the town of Shali, 30 kilometres southeast of Groz-

He said the Chechens handed over one soldier from Russia's Interior Ministry forces and five from the army in exchange for six Chechen

Mr. Kosov said 67 Russians had been freed through Ingush mediation since the start of the war, and that an unknown number of other Russian soldiers had been released directly to their parents by the Chechens.

About 400 Russian soldiers have been taken prisoner by the Chechens since the war broke out, he added.

In Moscow, witnesses before a parliamentary commission into the Chechenya conflict Monday painted a picture of Russian miscalculation and duplicity in the run-

up to the 10-week war. But the man who was to have been the star witness at the inquiry, Defence Minister

NEWS IN BRIEF

Christians voice fear of peace process

NICOSIA (AFP) — Leaders of the Middle East's 15

million Christians on Monday voiced fear over obstacles to

the Arab-Israeli peace process including Israeli settlement

building in occupied territories. The executive committee

of the Middle East Council of Churches which ended a

in the occupied territories and especially in Jerusalem" through expansion of Jewish settlements there "will pre-

vent the conclusion of peace, stir up violence and religious

fanatacism and increase emigration, notably among Christ-

ians." The 24-member committee also chose three assistant

secretary generals, including the first woman to occupy the post since the council was created in 1974. Jordanian Nahla

Karmashe of the Greek Orthodox Church was appointed,

along with Lebanese Paul Sayah, a Maronite Christian, and

Coptic Christian Samir Morkos. The council also agreed in

principle to allow the membership of the Assyrian Church.

the only Christian church to be excluded from the

'Rabin is personal problem for PLO'

PARIS (AFP) - The Palestine Liberation Organisation

(PLO) has a personal problem in dealing with Israeli Prime

Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who has led an administration that

has "shattered" the peace process, a senior PLO official said Monday. Afif Safieh, the PLO's London representa-

tive, told journalists here that, in order to save peace, the

organisation might have to "review our vision on the peace

process itself" during a key meeting of its executive body. Tuesday in Cairo. Speaking on the sidelines of a forum on

the Middle East peace process, Mr. Safieh admitted that

the PLO has "a problem with Mr. Rabin in person." Mr.

Rabin was "supposed to be a statesman. He turned out to

be only a general with a very narrow and short-sighted vision" of the peace process, the representative added. Mr. Safieh charged that Israel had "totally shattered the pillars

of legitimacy of the process and has not respected its own

agenda." He stressed that the Cairo talks would not deal

with internal PLO issues. "In Palestinian domestic terms it is not a crisis meeting," he said.

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) - A senior Palestinian

official said Monday the authority was trying to put a man

on trial for plotting to assassinate Yasser Arafat. The secretary general of Mr. Arafat's office in the Palestinian

Authority. Tayeb Abdul Rahim, made the revelation in an interview with the Ramallah-based weekly newspaper Al

Hyat Al Jadeeda. "The civilian judicial system has failed

until now to try a Palestinian charged with attempting to

assassinate Chairman Arafat," Mr. Abdul Rahim said. The

interview came after Mr. Arafat himself spoke recently of an attempt on his life. Unconfirmed reports have said the

suspected assassin was a member of the hardline Palesti-

nian group Abu Nidal detained last November, However,

the authority's attorney general Khaled Al Kidra told AFP:

"I know of no such case pending before the courts." But he

confirmed that several Abu Nidal men had been arrested in

Kuwaiti court postpones ruling in Bush case

KUWAIT (AP) - A high court Monday postponed until

March 20 a ruling on the appeals of seven Iraqis and two

Kuwaitis handed down death and prison sentences for

plotting to kill former U.S. President George Bush. A

court official notified reporters of the postponement and

the new date, but refused to explain why. It was the second

time that the five-judge cassation court has put off the

ruling, which was first expected on Feb. 6. After a one-year

trial, a state security court on June 4 sentenced five Iraqis

and a Kuwaiti to death. They were found guilty of conspiring to detonate a carbomb in April 1993 at Kuwait

University, where Mr. Bush was to be honoured for leading

the international coalition that ended Iraq's seven-month

occupation of Kuwait in February 1991. Two other Iraqis

and a Kuwaiti were handed prison sentences of up to 12 years for complicity. The defendants' lawyers appealed the

sentences, claiming these were predicated on insufficient

evidence. The cassation court's ruling is final. The court

does not retry cases, but considers the legality of verdicts.

Man who plotted to kill Arafat in jail

Pavel Grachev, did not turn up, while four other ministries also refused to cooperate, Mr. Grachev, considered the architect of the brutal intervention, said he had other engagements.

Vladimir Kruchkev, former head of the KGB secret police, told the commission Russia had misplayed its hand as long ago as 1991 by backing the secessionist ambitions of President Dudayev as a way of hastening the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Kruchkev, a leader of the failed 1993 coup against Russian President Boris Yeltin, said: "Dudayev appealed greatly to the Russian authorities (under Yeltsin) in September/October 1991 because he denounced the Soviet Union."

Later, he said, "they realised it was too late (to crush the rebellion)." It was only after three years of Chechen independence, on Dec. 11 last year, that the Kremlin sent troops into breakaway Chechenya to overturn its

Yusuf Soslambekov, president of the Chechen parlia-ment until it was dissolved by Mr. Dudayev in 1993, said the Russians had armed the Chechen secessionists under a formal agreement between the two sides.

According to some accounts, the Russian military was forced to abandon its weapons in Chechenya when it pulled its troops out of the republic in early 1992 after Mr. Dudayev's declaration of independence.

But Mr. Soslambekov said: The weapons which were allegedly abandoned by the Russians were in fact given to Dudayev through an agreement." He gave no further



TALIBANS: An unidentified commander of the Afghan religious movement Talihan's stands besides BM12 multi-barrel rocket launcher at Charasyab, 25 kilometres from Kabul. The Taliban movement vows that the U.N. peace

plan for Afghanistan would fail unless they controlled Kabul, where new clashes between other rival factions resumed (see story below) (AFP photo)

Joint police-Jewish settler patrols spark outcry

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli lawmaker expressed outrage on Monday that Israeli police and Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank were conducting joint patrols near the Palestinian self-rule enclave of Jericho.

"I would call this a scandal. illegal," Ran Cohen, a member of Parliament from the leftist Meretz bloc, told army

Mr. Cohen said settlers had a right to police protection as did any other citizens. "but in no way, no joint patrol, no joint stake-out." The radio said the patrols had operated for several weeks. It said they were conducted in civilian vehicles and used settler communication equip-

Israel's police commander Ali Ron in the West Bank confirmed the existence of the patrols on Monday and acknowledged receiving complaints but told the radio: 'I'm sorry, they're making a

Michael Ben-Yair, called the patrols "problematic" and ordered an investigation, Israel army radio said.

Last week, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin sharply criticised Mr. Ben-Yair and the police for failing to prosecute lawbreakers among the 141,000 settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"When are you finally oing to find ways to enforce the law against the settlers?" Mr. Rabin reportedly asked Mr. Ben-Yair in an angry

An official commission of inquiry into last year's Hebron mosque massacre found that police and the army were lax about following up on complaints by Palestinians gainst Jewish settlers. In the Feb. 25 massacre, a settler shot and killed more than 30 Muslim worshippers at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

The joint patrols have been conducted for the past two weeks in the vicinity of the West Bank town of Jericho, an autonomous Palestinian enclave run by the Palestinian National Authority

(PNA).
In the patrols, a uniformed police officer drives around with a settler in a jeep pro-

vided by the settlement. Police said settlers have complained of increased security problems since Jericho became autonomous under the 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord.

Yoav Zimran, head of security at Megilot regional council that runs the patrols, said that police only join pat-rols when "trouble" is expected. "When we get information that someone is planning to damage our property we prepare joint ambushes," he said.

The settlements belonging to Megilot are north of the Dead Sea and south of Jericho.

But liberal legislators said they would seek to have the patrols stopped. "This is absurd and I fail to understand any logic or justification," Mr. Cohen told army

"They (police) must treat all citizens equally - right, left, moderate or extreme and enforce Israeli law over all of them.

A senior Palestinian negotiator also demanded that the patrols be stopped. "It is a clear violation of

the (autonomy) agreement," said Ahmad Qoureia, the Palestinian economy minister. "It is enough that the presence of the settlements and the settlers is illegal and now they are having joint patrols with Israeli police-

Mr. Cohen said a policeman would have a hard time arresting a settler with whom he shared patrols: "How could he bring him to justice? How could be enforce the law against him?"

Questions about Israel's ability to act against Jewish settlers reemerged last week when several hundred attended a memorial ceremony for the Hebron Mosque killer, Baruch Goldstein.

King Juan Carlos fractures

MADRID (AFP) — King Juan Carlos fractured a wrist after slipping on an ice patch in a Spanish ski resort at the weekend and will have a cast on his right arm for six weeks, his office announced Monday. It said the accident occurred Sunday while the king was walking at the Candanchu Ski Station in northern Spain carrying his skis. But despite the injury, the monarch went on with his scheduled activities and watched cross-country and figure skating competitions held at Sabinanigo, where the World Winter University Games were taking place. His accident means that he will be in a cast when the walks his daughter Infante Elena down the isle when she gets married next month.

Diana's admirer left wife 'to be near her'

LONDON (AFP) — Art dealer Oliver Hoare's former chauffeur has alleged the wealthy Englishman left his wife briefly in late 1993 and hved in a small apartment m London to meet secretly with Princess Diana, a Sunday newspaper reports. The News Of The World, a tabloid weekly, quoted Barry Hodge, whom Mr. Hoare recently dismissed, as saying his former employer left the family home in London's fashionable Chelsea district in November 1993 and rented a one-room apartment near Victoria Station. "He was convinced he was leaving forever," Mr. Hodge told the paper, but two months later the wealthy art dealer re-turned to his wife Diana because "he liked his luxury too F much." Mr. Hoare had considered moving to a larger accommodation, but shelved the plan, the chauffeur added. He said that when the dealer talked to Princess Diana on his car phone, the conversations sometimes lasted as much as an hour and were full of "passionate August, the News Of The World reported that Mr. Hoare had been bothered by anonymous, silent phone calls for almost two years and that the police had traced some of them to Princess Diana's private line.

Empty your post box, Mozambique president told

MAPUTO (R) — Mozambique's President Joaquim Chissano has been warned by the country's post office to empty his post box or have his mail consigned to the garbage dump. The president's office is one of 24 institutions which have not been collecting their mail from private boxes at the Maputo Central Post Office, the Maputo daily Noticias said Sunday. "Pick up your letters or we will be forced either to return them to the senders or consign them to the garbage heap," the post office notice said. Other offenders included the Vatican's embassy or Apostolic Delegation, the Nigerian and Pakistani embassies, the Mozambican National Customs Board, the national Directorate of Finance and the State Secretariat for Civil Aviation.

The Swiss hamiet that roared

BERN (AFP) — A tiny Swiss hamlet trying for 13 years to switch cantons has finally got its chance, but it will mean four plebiscites spanning a year at a total cost of \$4 million . Vellerat, home to all of 70 people, is part of the Bern canton but has been pushing to fall under the jurisdiction of neighbouring Jura. The only road leading out of Vellerat goes to a village in Jura, and the people of Vellerat depend on this village for its post office, school and even its cemetery. Cuest un 3-44 constitution, the only way for the gerrymandering to take place is through four plebiscites one local, two regional and another on the national level. They will begin on March 12, take a year and cost \$4 million. Campaigning for the first plebiscite, in the Bern canton, began this weekend. Voting will take later in Vellerat itself, then Jura and finally on the national level.

1.70

Afghan peace plan remain storm in a teacup. snagged Israel's attorney general,

four-day meeting here Monday studied a report on the "obstacles and challenges to the peace process," it said in a statement. The report said that the "fait accompli created mediators and the Islamic student movement Talibans failed Monday to break a deadlock over the group's. conditions for backing the latest U.N. plan to end Afghanistan's civil war.

A special U.N. delegation and leaders of the Talibans met for two hours in Charasyab, south of Kabul, but failed to agree on conditions set by the group before it will back the U.N. plan to install an interim government in 'Kabul.

"We told the U.N., if you meet our conditions, your process will succeed," said Mullah Borjan, commander of the Taliban base of Char-

asvab. The Talibans, a recently formed group boasting some 25,000 troops whose fighters are within 15 kilometres of Kabul, want control of security in the capital before President Burhanuddin Rabbani transfers power to the U.N.proposed interim governing

The interim council was to take power Monday as a prelude for a nationwide cease-

Two other Taliban conditions are that council members be "good Muslims" and that all of Afghanistan's 30 provinces be represented on

Pro-Rabbani frontline troops scoffed at the security "We will never let them enter the city, no way," said a pro-Rabbani trooper seen

digging new bunkers and cleaning heavy weapons on the eastern Kabul frontlines. U.N. special negotiator Mahmoud Mestiri and four Afghan members of the proposed council met the Taliban

delegates for two hours at a

disused hospital in Char-

Parked outside the hospital were six Russian-made T-55 and T-62 tanks and two armoured vehicles, which the Talibans said they had captured from Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's anti-Rabbani Hezbe-Islami faction that was driven from Charasyab a

week ago. Taliban commander Mullah Borjan said he hoped for peace through negotiation, not fighting, and added that talks would continue.

The United Nations made no statement on Monday's

Israeli planes attack Sudan reports secret **Hizbollah positions**

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli planes twice raided Hizbollah guerrilla targets in southeastern Lebanon on Monday in a second day of air attacks.

security sources said. The planes fired nine rockets in two raids 30 minutes apart into the Maydoun hills, on the southern edge of the eastern Bekaa Valley, used by Hizbollah to attack Israel's occupation zone in

South Lebanon. A senior Hizbollah official said the militants would step up special operations against Israeli forces in the coming few days.

"You should expect an increase in special military operations against the Israeli enemy in the coming few days," member of Hizbol-, lah's politburo Ahmad Qamar told reporters in Sohmor village, eight kilometres north of May-

Security sources said there were no casualties in the raid, which targetted a rugged wooded area full of caves where guerrillas hide weapons to attack Israel's 1,000 troops and their 2,500strong South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia allies.

Israel has carried out nine air strikes in Lebanon this

Pro-Israeli militia sources said that hours before the air assault guerrillas fired mortar bombs at two posts manned by SLA militiamen at Sojoud and Beir Kallab. No one was

Israeli and SLA gunners responded with artillery fire on guerrilla-held areas north of the zone.

On Sunday, Israeli artiflery pounded Hizbollah-held areas in South Lebanon killing two civilians and a guer-rilla after Hizbollah fighters killed an SLA militiaman. Israeli planes also raided Hizbollah posts five times, wounding one guerrilia. Lebanese officials linked

the latest spiral of fighting in and around Israel's selfdeclared "security zone" in South Lebanon to the deadlock in Middle East peace

Israel, however, blamed Beirut's dependence on Syria, which deploys 35,000 troops in Lebanon where it wields considerable political influence, for the fighting. Syria slammed Israel and urged the United States to

(Continued on page 3)

talks with rebels

KHARTOUM (R) -Sudan's government last year held several rounds of secret negotiations with various factions of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), a senior government official was quoted on Mon-

day as saying.
Musa Sid Ahmad, of the High Council for Peace, told the privately-owned Akhbar Al Youm newspaper the talks were held in Khartoum.

President Omar Hassan Al Bashir, a lieutenant-general, formed the peace council last October. Mr. Sid Ahmad gave no

dates for the meetings but said they included several groups, including the SPLA faction led by John Garang and that headed by Riak Machar, the Southern Sudan Independence Movement. The SPLA was not immediately available for com-

The paper quoted Mr. Sid Ahmad as saying the talks came within the context of government efforts to bring peace, but gave no further details.

Colonel Garang and Mr. Macher have accused former SPLA commanders such as Kerubino Kwanyin Bol and William Nyuon of secret talks and deals with Gen. Bashir's

government and have alleged that they and their groups have fought alongside government troops in war-torn southern Sudan.

Sudan unfazed by label Sudan does not fear being isolated or labelled a terrorist state, the country's top Muslim fundamentalist leader Hassan Al Turabi was quoted on Monday as saying. "We do not care about

isolation because God is with us," Akhbar Al Youm newspaper quoted Dr. Turabi as telling students at Khartoum University. "We do not fear being

placed on the list of terrorists because that is a list of hon-In 1993 the United States

placed Sudan on its list of countries that spousor "state terrorism." Sudan denied the charge

saying the United States is simply against its Islamic Dr. Turabi holds no official position but is widely believed

to be the main driving force

behind Islamist policies of the

government Dr. Turabi said Sudan was engaged in an international battle for religion and wester-ners had begun to fear jihad (holy war).

Opposition urges Sanaa to respect accord

SANAA (AFP) — Seven Islamic and left-wing opposition groups accused the goverument on Monday of failing to keep to an accord signed a year ago and amid at healing rifts between the north and south.

In a statement sent to AFP, the seven including the Yemeni Socialist Party (ŸSP) which led an abortive bid to create a breakaway state in the south in the May-July 1994 civil war, said the accord "must form the basis of a national reconciliation."

The accord was signed in Amman on Feb. 20 by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, a northerner, and his former southern rival and ex-YSP leader Ali Salem Al Beidh after clashes between their two forces. The head of the Islamic Al

Islah, Abdullah Al Ahmar,

also signed the accord along with about 30 of the country's political leaders. It set out planned political reforms and a decentralisa-tion of the administration.

But Mr. Saleh, leader of the General People's Con-gress, and Al Islah, which together now form the coalition government, denounced the accord at the beginning of the two-month war in May.

"The Amman accord was not a document to end the political crisis between the ruling parties, but an alternative for the foundation of a modern, unified and democratic state," the statement "The deep political and

economic crisis confronting the government is due to its renunciation of the accord," The accord was signed in a bid to defuse tension between Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh who had been at loggerheads for months over running the country created when the former North and South Ye-mens merged in May 1990.

Food prices go up

The Yemeni government has pushed up the price of food in state shops by close to 40 per cent to allow them to put more goods on sale in a bid to control spiralling prices on the open market.

It has also decided to set up special courts to crack down on wholesalers who try to sell products at more than the official rates, legal officials said Monday.

The effect of rising food prices in Yemen, one of the poorest countries in the world, has been exacerbated its prices.

by the Yemeni riyal's slide against the U.S. dollar. The greenback now reaches 115 riyals on the open market compared to 12 rivals at the official rate, A public sector worker in Yemen earns on average be-tween 4,000 and 6,000 riyals a

A 50-kilogramme bag of com in state shops has risen from 160 rivals to 225 rivals, an increase of just over 40 per cent. The same bag of corn on the open market costs 600

riyals. The government has increased the price of flour by 44.7 per cent and sugar by 33.6 per cent.

The price increases are designed to make more goods available in state shops, forcing the free market to lower

